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The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood







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The Maroon Beret / Le Beret Marron is the "Voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood," and is published on behalf of all Canadian Airborne associations.

Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to **canadianairborneforces@gmail.com**. The deadline for the 2015 issue is February 1, 2016. *The Maroon Beret* welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to **canadianairborneforces@gmail.com**. Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Cover photo: Paratroopers from M Coy, 3 RCR conducted a parachute descent from CC-130J Herc using Polish AD-95 chutes. (PHOTO BY LT JJ-F CARPENTIER, 2 CMBG, PAO)

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CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA)/ Association des Forces Aéroportées du Canada (AFAC)



he past year has been one of rebuilding for the Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA). We have joined social media with a Facebook page and Twitter account. Our website is current and accessible to all of our members. Another first-class issue of our magazine, the Maroon Beret, was distributed. We have successfully applied for and received a continuance of our organization under the provisions of the new Federal Not-For-Profit Act. Our By-Laws have been completely rewritten to conform to the Act and were approved at our AGM on May 2.

Our bursary and Deserving Airborne Soldier of the Year Award — both very popular initiatives with our serving and former-serving airborne community — were awarded to very deserving individuals. Our Museum in Petawawa is in good shape thanks to the stewardship of Bob McBride, our museum representative.

Our Executive and Board of Directors meet regularly by teleconference to further the business of CAFA and to discuss ways of increasing our visibility and membership. We are very fortunate to have a strong and active Board of Directors to manage the affairs of our organization. The workload is shared by a number of talented individuals who are happy to do their part without fanfare. Our partnership with the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in Trenton also contributes to our success, as the school has become the home for our Annual General Meetings. The cooperation and support of the CO, RSM and staff of the CAAWC in facilitating these meetings is very much appreciated.

At the AGM on May 2 we were able to welcome a number of our Airborne Brothers from the United States under the leadership of our Vice President, Angelo Di Liberti, and present them with their Charter for CAFA Branch 17, the Major General Robert T. Frederick Memorial Branch. It was a special moment for all involved. It is our hope that Branch 17 will continue to grow and that its members will become regularly engaged in our activities.

We have a few projects that remain works in progress. Increasing our membership, as well as encouraging those who have left the fold to come back, should both be the focus of our efforts. The board will be work on a proposal to allow members to pay their membership fees electronically through a secure web payment platform. We will continue the process of getting our By-Laws approved by Industry Canada.

Last year at this time CAFA was on the brink of dissolution. Thankfully, through the efforts of many, we have recovered. I am optimistic that with persistence we will continue to grow. The membership at large can assist by referring prospective members to the CAFA Facebook page or website for information. You can also pass on any issues or concerns to our Board members, whose contact information can be found on the CAFA website.

Green light on, Go! ■

Walter Holmes CAFA President



have enclosed a photo of our plaque on The Walk of Remembrance, a project of the Fort George National Historic Park at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This project started last spring with the thought of being ready for Canada Day, 2014. The idea was to have plaques representing all Regiments and units that have been stationed at Camp Niagara-on-the-Lake. Not known was how far back they intended to go — at least The Great War and WWII, and maybe even all the way to 1812?

Because of Jan de Vries, then President of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association, and his great interest in the plan, we were approached to prepare a plaque for the Battalion that would be suitable for all units interested in becoming a part of this Remembrance Walk.

Rolly Harper and myself, with Dan Laroche, site supervisor of Fort George National Historic Park, advising us, we finally ended up with our plaque. It will be used as the standard for all plaques on the Remembrance Walk. It measures approximately 24" by 18", with the unit cap badge on top and the unit's colour as background. Our Airborne cap badge is on a maroon background.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The plaque arrived at Fort George last fall, too close to the winter freeze to be planted, so it was installed near the end of May 2015. It looks lonely, but with something to show other possible regiments and units, wonderful things might happen. But last year Dan informed me that the only interest at that time was from The Queen's Own Rifles.

For any unit interested in installing a plaque to commemorate their service at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dan Laroche may be contacted at Niagara National Historic Sites, 26 Queen St, P.O. Box 787, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0. He can also be reached by phone at 905-468-8523 and email ont-niagara@pc.gc.ca.

William Talbot 1 Can Para vet Willowdale, Ontario

ABOVE: The plaque reads: "1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. Formed on July 1st, 1942, the Battalion joined the British 6th Airborne Division in England in 1943 serving with them in Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Returning to Canada after VE Day, May 8th, 1945, the Battalion was stationed in Niagara-on-the-Lake awaiting transfer to the Japanese Theatre of War. Following VJ Day, August 15, 1945, the Battalion was disbanded on September 30, 1945. Thus ended the service of this unique Battalion which, despite severe casualties, never lost a battle nor failed to achieve all objectives. Included in the many personal battle honours is a Victoria Cross recipient." For more on the plaque dedication, go to page 34 of this issue.



ARAC Presidents' Messages

Airborne Regiment Association of Canada | Association du Régiment Aéroporté du Canada (ARAC)



Greetings fellow jumpers:

It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to write a few words to you all. I am speaking to you as the interim president, as our president, Jake Flanders, needed to resign earlier this year. May he have success with his future endeavours.

The year 2014 was a quiet one for the association, which held meetings every two months as well as an AGM in the fall of last year. Members of the association also participated in the annual pilgrimage to the May 8 memorial in Petawawa and many had the privilege of going to Edmonton for the commemoration of the National Airborne Memorial Monument in the Berger-Perron park. A great deal of hard work went into this project and the Airborne Social Club — who spearheaded the project — should be commended on their hard work to make it a success.

Both the Perron and Berger families were sent a report and pictures of the ceremony, which was translated in French by Al Gaudet. An excellent report on the whole event was put together by Bill Dickson. Many thanks for all



ABOVE: ARAC President Paul Mulhall received the GCS in Afghanistan in 2011. (DND)

LEFT: ARAC President Paul Mulhall laid the wreath on behalf of the Airborne at the National War Memorial on Parliament Hill in Ottawa during the 2014 Remembrance Day ceremony.

the effort put into this endeavour. Your national executive also supported this event by donating 450 memorial coins to be sold for fundraising purposes at \$25.00 each. The project resulted in obtaining more than \$11,000.00. We also participated in the annual Peacekeeping Day and of course at the November 11 Remembrance Day memorial at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa.

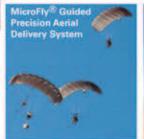
A good portion of our time last year was to work on the exercise of making sure that our association continues to be in good standing with Corporations Canada. Rob Hagarty, Jake Flanders and myself spent a good deal of time working on updating our By-laws and Constitution and creating the Articles of Continuance for submission to Corporations Canada so that our association could continue for the foreseeable future.

In 2015 we expect to finalize the finer details of our By-Laws and Constitution and again participate in many of our annual functions. Your presence is always welcome to any of them. As of this date, our AGM date is yet to be determined. We will of course let you know when it will be and we encourage people to attend.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable 2015. ■

Paul Mulhall ARAC Vice-President & Interim President







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Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre

CENTRE D'INSTRUCTION SUPÉRIEURE DE L'ARMÉE CANADIENNE

Starting the CAFPT on to the Road Ahead

Départ sur la route de l'ÉPFAC

by Capt Jake Porter, Team Capt CAFPT

par le Capt Jake Porter, Capt d'Équipe ÉPFAC

he Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team (CAFPT), the SkyHawks, have recently gone through their annual rotation of personnel and begun training in preparation for the rapidly approaching 2015 season. As the 2014 season wrapped up last October, some members of the Cadre (the personnel posted to the team for multiple seasons from the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre) returned to other duties at the school, and four new members were introduced to the team. Once most of the administrative requirements of position changes were dealt with, the CAFPT began to look forward to their training.

The first stage of training was for the team to conduct a one week tunnel camp in SkyVenture Laval, QC, in order to prepare them for the Tandem Instructor and Camera Course, typically run in November. Due to fiscal uncertainties, the actual parachuting portion of this training was held off until February, to follow the omme la saison 2014 a pris fin en octobre dernier, certains cadres de l'ÉPFAC (Équipe parachutistes des Forces Armée canadienne) qui étaient affectés à l'équipe depuis plusieurs saisons et étant membre permanent du CISGTAC (Centre d'instruction supérieure en guerre terrestre de l'Armée canadienne) ont été réaffecté à d'autres tâches au sein de l-école. Ayant terminé leur rotation annuelle du personnel, quatre nouveaux membres ont été sélectionnés et introduits à l-équipe des « SkyHawks ». Alors que la saison 2015 se présente hâtivement, une fois de plus l'ÉPFAC a dû mettre en branle et activer la préparation administrative ainsi que l'entrainement de son personnel clef. Une fois que la plupart de ces exigences ont été traitées, les « SkyHawks » ont été en mesure de commencé la première phase de leur plan d'entraînement.

La première étape pour l'équipe était de mener une semaine d'entraînement dans un simulateur de chute libre au « SkyVenture » à Laval; ceci fut immédiatement suivi





ABOVE: Tri-by-side formation. // CI-HAUT: Formation trois côte-à-

LEFT: Master Scott "Scooter" Leckie (top jumper), Master Corporal Adam Winnicki (middle jumper) and Petty Officer 1st Class Tony Specht (bottom jumper) fly a 3-stack at the Mount Hope Aviation Expo. (ATTILA PAPP, HOT RAMP PHOTOGRAPHY) // À GAUCHE: Le Maître Scott (Scooter) Leckie (parachutiste du haut), le Caporalchef Adam Winnicki (parachutiste du centre) et le Maître de 1re classe Tony Specht (parachutiste du bas) dans un empilage à trois durant la Mount Hope Aviation Expo. (ATTILA PAPP, HOT RAMP PHOTOGRAPHY)

SkyHawks' first major training event. As Cadre Camp the first major training event of the season — approached, the team leadership worked diligently with the CAAWC leadership to explore cost cutting measures. The goal was to reduce the financial impact of the training, whilst maintaining the high standard of performance required from all members of the Canadian Armed Forces' only parachute demonstration team.

December saw the team captain and second-in-command take a three day trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the International Council of Airshows (ICAS). This three day event, while short, is one of the most critical conferences the team attends, as it allows us to engage directly with potential venues and, in the span of three days, build a proposed calendar that will carry us through until October of the following year.

With such high venue interest, it is not always easy to deconflict multiple shows to determine where the team will



ABOVE: Cdr (ret'd) J.P. McCann debrief SkyHawks on formation during Cadre Camp 2015. (CRAIG O'BRIAN) // CI-HAUT: Capc (ret.) J.P. McCann débriefe les SkyHawks lors du Camp des cadres. (CRAIG O'BRIAN)

du cours d'instructeur tandem et caméra. Cette préparation est déterminante afin de préparer adéquatement notre personnel cadre. Généralement cet apprentissage s'effectue en novembre mais en raison des incertitudes budgétaires, cette formation a dû être divisée en deux segments; la partie réelle de parachutisme de cette entraînement a été repoussé jusqu'au mois de février 2015. Pour le camp de préparation du personnel permanent ce sera le premier événement majeur d'entraînement de la saison qui se rapproche rapidement. La direction de l'équipe a travaillé avec diligence avec la chaîne de commandement du CISGTAC pour étudier certaines options budgétaires afin de réduire l'impact financier de l'entraînement tout en maintenant un haut niveau de performance requis de tous les membres de l'ÉPFAC.

Au mois de décembre dernier le capitaine de l'équipe ainsi que le commandant en second ont effectué un voyage de trois jours à Las Vegas, Nevada, pour assister au « Conseil International des Spectacles Aériens » (CISA). Cet événement a été d'une durée de trois jours. Cette conférence est l'une des plus importantes que l'équipe doit assister, car elle permet de discuter et de coordonner directement avec les sites potentiels. Ce très court laps de temps permet d'élaborer et de mettre à jour le futur calendrier de la saison 2015 de l'ÉPFAC qui se terminera en octobre 2015.

Il n'est pas toujours facile de synchroniser plusieurs spectacles en si peu de temps pour déterminer où



ABOVE: SkyHawks performing parabatics over Perris, CA, USA. (CRAIG O'BRIAN) // CI-HAUT: Les SkyHawks ont effectué des acrobaties aériennes à Perris, en Californie. (CRAIG O'BRIAN)

have the most impact. It is only through careful planning and discussion that the SkyHawks have been able to build a 2015 season calendar that not only maximizes the public relations impact of the team, but is also built to allow the team to focus on one geographical area at a time, reducing transport costs.

Once the schedule was determined, it was time for the team to sit down and vet the many applications from across the Army, Navy, Air Force and SOFCOM of personnel who wished to be an augmentee on the team. As the school does not have a large enough personnel to fully man the team, as well as to give the opportunity for a wider representation of the CAF on the SkyHawks.

Each year the CAFPT asks for resumes and jump logs of personnel interested in being part of the team for one season. It was with great consideration, and some lively discussion, that the Cadre members were able to pare down the applicants to ensure a broad representation and the most experience possible before selecting them to join the team in February.

The most recent activity that the team took part in was their first three-week training block for the more permanent members of the team, known colloquially as Cadre Camp. This training serves as a refresher for returning members of the team and provides the new members with their first foray into Canopy Relative Work (CRW), the major part of the signature SkyHawks show.

Not only do the new Cadre members need to learn these skills, they will be instructing the augmentees in little over a month when the complete team, augmentees included, return to the United States for five weeks of training, known as 'main camp,' which will teach the augmentees CRW, help the Cadre select augmentees to remain for the remainder of the season, and develop and polish the signature show of the SkyHawks!

l'équipe aura le plus d'impact. C'est uniquement grâce à une articulation et une planification approfondie que les « SkyHawks » ont été en mesure de mettre à jour un calendrier qui sera flexible et à la fois efficace qui non seulement maximise l'impact des relations publiques de l'équipe, mais aussi pour se consentir d'en réduire les coûts de transport.

Maintenant que le calendrier a été déterminé, il était temps pour l'équipe de s'asseoir et d'examiner les nombreuses demandes provenant des FAC (la Marine, l'Armée, la force Aérienne et le COMFOSCAN) du personnels qui voudraient être membre de l'équipe. Puisse que le CISGTAC n'a pas les ressources personnelles suffisantes pour intégrer l'ÉPFAC, ces demandes permette de donner une vaste représentation des membres des FAC.

Chaque année, l'ÉPFAC demande des volontaires qui démontrent de l'intérêt pour se joindre à l'équipe. Bien sûre, ils devront déjà avoir de l'expérience à la voillure et rencontrer certains prérequis. C'est avec une grande considération et une discussion animée que les membres du cadre devront recruter les candidats en s'assurant d'avoir un maximum de représentation de tous les éléments des FAC.

L'activité la plus récente de l'équipe fût la première partie de l'entraînement de trois semaines pour les membres permanents de l'équipe. L'exercice c'est déroulé à Perris Valley (Californie), connus familièrement comme Camp des cadres. Cet entraînement sert à dégourdir et mettre à jour les membres qui feront partis de l'édition 2015. De plus, pour les nouveaux membres permanents, cette exercice leurs offre une première incursion dans le travail relatif de la voilure (TRV). Cette dernière démontre la signature des « SkyHawks » durant la majeur portion des spectacles de l'ÉPFAC.

Les nouveaux membres cadres ont besoin d'apprendre non seulement les compétences requises, mais ils devront à leurs tour enseigner et donner de l'instruction à ceux qui se joindront éventuellement dans un peu plus d'un mois quand l'équipe sera complète. Les heureux élus qui seront sélectionnés retourneront aux États-Unis pour cinq semaines d'entraînement, reconnu comme le camp principal. Ils devront démontrer leurs savoir-faire à ce qui se rapporte au TRV. Cette phase de l'entraînement sera décisive pour déterminer la sélection final afin de développer et peaufiner le spectacle qui caractérise la renommée internationale des « SkyHawks »!





CAAWC

The Evolution of the Military Freefall Parachute Course

by Capt Angelo Manzara,
OC Parachute Training Company,
&

by Sgt Daniel Coulter, Canadian Army Square Parachute Subject Matter Expert

arachute Training Company recently conducted Functional Centre of Excellence (FCoE) training at Sky Venture Montreal to improve the free fall capability of the Military Square Parachute Instructors (MSPI). Recently, the Combat Training Centre approved the combination of Military Freefall Para Instructor (MFPI) and Static Line Square Parachute Instructor (SLSCPI).

As the training was culminating, it was noticed that WO Charlie Sheppard envisioned the Canadian Army (CA) using the vertical wind tunnel (VWT) and how it would make each jumper more proficient at freefall parachuting. WO Sheppard worked hard researching and proposing multiple ways and reasons of why the centre must implement the VWT.

Like many early adopters, he was slightly ahead of his time and a lone voice against institutional change. Unfortunately, Charlie died in a parachuting accident prior to the full inclusion of the VWT and was unable to see how irreplaceable the VWT has become on the basic Military Freefall Parachute (MFP) course, Freefall Jump Master (FJM) and MSPI courses.

Arguably, you could say that the inclusion of the VWT into the square program is the one single improvement to the entire square package that has shown long-lasting, tangible results in a student's ability to conduct freefall parachuting. For MSPIs, even more so, since MSPI students are far better "flyers" than previous MFPIs who would gain proficiency with numerous jumps over numerous years. The VWT enables all candidates, regardless of skill level, to practice freefall tasks in a safe environment prior to jumping out of a plane where the consequences of error are the greatest.

ABOVE: An assisted exit by a Military Square Parachute Instructor (MSPI) of a Military Freefall Parachute (MFP) student in full equipment in Perris, California.





FAR LEFT: A Military
Freefall Parachute (MFP)
course student achieving
stability without equipment
in the vertical wind tunnel
(VWT) prior to making his
first jump.

LEFT: An MFP student conducting practice pulls in the vertical wind tunnel prior to making his first jump.

MFP Course

Prior to the VWT, a student's first experience of freefall was exiting at 12,500′ AGL and hoping for the best. Some students would get stable immediately but some would tumble, spin or both, prior to pulling their own rip cord or having the automatic opening device fire, saving their life — thank you, Riggers! The VWT enables both the student and staff to gain confidence that each MFP student is able to achieve stability and maintain stability prior to exiting the aircraft. The progression in the tunnel brings the members from no skills to being able to turn, change levels and practice their first jump prior to leaving the aircraft. Unlike the old days, each jumper now has confidence that he/she will be able to achieve stability on their first exit.

FJM Course

Doctrinally, FJMs do not leave the aircraft, however, with the decline in RCAF support to CAAWC and other CA units, FJMs as future MSPI candidates do not have the requisite jump numbers to allow them to successfully



ABOVE: For all militaries, freefall training in VWTs has become irreplaceable as it enables all candidates, regardless of skill level, to practice freefall tasks in a safe environment prior to jumping out of a plane where the consequences of error are the greatest. (PHOTO COURTESY HOLLYWOODTOURS.US)

achieve the standard required on the MSPI course. Thus the VWT gives each FJM student sufficient tunnel time to act as a base of skills required on future MSPI course; leveraging this, CAAWC attempts to schedule the MSPI course following the FJM course so skill fade does not erode the achievements that each student has made.

MSPI

The MSPI course has benefited the most since the inclusion of the VWT. In the past MFPIs skill level due to lack of jumping or skill fade disallowed the MFPI to be at the top of their game prior to an MFP, FJM or MFPI course. Often the instructor's first jump for the season was at the same time as the first jump of the candidate that was being assessed. Due to the lack of skill, many MFP students did not have an instructor jumping in relative proximity to them; unable to give corrective hand signals, assess skills or recover an unstable candidate. The VWT now allows the MSPI to "fly" prior to J-Stage with each student, make corrections in the tunnel that will save time during J-Stage.

The MSPI course use of the VWT is where the great divide of instructors now happens. MFPIs or MSPIs qualified during the VWT are now able to fly in close proximity, recover jumpers who are flying out of control, film entire descent from exit to main chute activation, and in extreme cases pull the members rip cord if required. Vice MFPIs qualified prior to the VWT who were able to "fly" but could not accomplish the skills mentioned above.

In conclusion WO Charlie Sheppard's vigor in his advocacy for the VWT may have burnt some personal and/or professional bridges but it did start a conversation that has gone from idea to reality. The VWT, and all the skill sets it provides our jumpers and instructors, not only makes freefall training safer, it makes all square canopy jumpers better operators — at least in the sky.





3 RCR

Mike (Para) Company

by Lt Matthew Durand, 1 Platoon Commander Mike Company

he past year has been both a challenging and exciting time for Mike Company. By capitalizing on a demanding individual and collective training schedule, the company was able to further prove itself as a para-capable sub-unit within a light airmobile infantry battalion.

The year saw the company group deploy on several training exercises and participate in the Canadian government's commitment to NATO reassurance measures in the Baltic Region. The abundance of incredible training opportunities have allowed us to develop, and perfect, our skills as paratroopers and work together as a cohesive unit which can effectively bring to bear an abundance of firepower and resources, ensuring the successful completion of any task we were assigned.

After coming back well rested from the Christmas holidays, the company took advantage of the heavy snowfall to conduct multiple winter exercises for the purpose of qualifying Mike Company in a winter environment. The ability to effectively carry out winter warfare operations is vital to the company's skill set. The company proved that it can be deployed in Arctic conditions within an airborne

context focusing on survivability while conducting deep operations.

During Mike Company's winter exercise, soldiers learned important survival techniques such as erecting improvised shelters and building and maintaining a proper fire. These tools were invaluable as the soldiers were operating in weather as cold as -40 degrees Celsius. Classes were taught on how to snare small game and how to ice fish with limited supplies. Rations were not permitted during survival week, as M Coy personnel were expected to kill, clean, and cook rabbits and fish.

In March, Mike Company switched its focus from conducting winter warfare to operating in an urban environment. The Urban Operations Instructors (UOI) from the company imparted their knowledge and expertise onto the soldiers. A shoot house was constructed in the Battalion's simulation room, where instructors could

ABOVE: Mike Company conducting para insertion to seize a bridge to kickoff 2 CMBG's advance during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 14.



demonstrate the proper techniques and shooting stances necessary for urban operations.

Once dry training was complete, the UOI's put the soldiers to the test as they confirmed what they learned in the Urban Operations Shoot House (UOSH). To make this an even more rewarding experience, the UOSH was filled with various pieces of furniture, and doors were erected to force the soldiers to think rapidly. Once the company proved up to this challenge, the instructors again increased the range's difficulty by employing "shoot" and "no shoot" targets, which forced the range participants to slow down and identify a target as hostile prior to engaging it.

The 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG) deployed to Wainwright, Alberta, to take part in Exercises MAPLE RESOLVE and RUGGED BEAR in May and June. During this time, Mike Company conducted two parachute insertions at night, enabling them to conduct deep operations and disrupt the enemy's depth elements. These company para insertions were initiated as triggers for the 2 CMBG advance during the force-on-force exercises, and dislocated the disrupted the enemy. The company showed its versatility and also conducted airmobile operations, being inserted behind the enemy's lines via CH-147 Chinook Helicopters to secure key ground for the remainder of the Brigade's advance. The Company also participated in EX RUGGED BEAR as it completed both a level 2 and a level 4.5 range.

During the fall, Mike Company participated in Exercise SPARTAN BEAR III, which was a live fire company attack in late November. The exercise included an airmobile insertion as well as a river crossing. This gave the company an opportunity to showcase the skills of its advanced mountain operators who established a high line, enabling the company to quickly and covertly traverse the obstacle. The company also participated in the filming of a new Canadian Armed Forces recruiting commercial set to air



in 2015. For this video, Mike Company completed a ramp jump out of a CC-130J Hercules.

This year proved to be extremely busy and, at the same time, tremendously rewarding for the company. Soldiers of all ranks were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of new, challenging, and realistic training while capitalizing on several opportunities to further develop its para capabilities, and with Mike Company travelling both domestically and abroad this past year, it has been especially difficult for the families. It is the steadfast support of our families that has provided the soldiers the peace of mind so that they can focus on the job at hand.

TOP LEFT: Mike Coy, upon return from Poland, participated in a level 4.5 live fire attack at CFB Petawawa. The company completed an airmobile raid with CH-147s. Following the morning attack, the company completed a river obstacle crossing using two highlines to capture a night objective.

ABOVE RIGHT: A soldier from Mike Company prepares to cross a river obstacle during Exercise SPARTAN BEAR 2014 within the Garrison Petawawa training area on November 25, 2014. (CPL DANIEL SALISBURY, GARRISON IMAGING PETAWAWA)





3 RCR

Roto 1 Operation REASSURANCE Mike (Para) Company

Maj Eddie Jun, Officer Commanding Mike (Para) Company

ike Company of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, deployed to Poland on Roto 1 (R1) Operation REASSURANCE as the Land Task Force from July to September 2015. The company completed a relief in place with Bravo Company (3 PPCLI) at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in northwestern Poland, and conducted training with the Polish and American units while maintaining a Canadian presence in Eastern Europe.

The American formation conducting OP PERSISTANT PRESENCE (P2) in Europe at the time was the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) stationed out of Italy. The 173rd rotated their airborne battalions in the region, with companies dispersed throughout Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Mike Company was fortunate enough to have Destined Company (2/503) from the 173rd IBCT as its neighbour at Drawsko Pomorskie for the three months of its deployment, and conducted numerous joint training and exercises.

Recognizing that the Canadians and Americans had airborne outfits co-located in their country, the Polish Army rotated companies from the 6th Polish Airborne Brigade into Drawsko Pomorskie every three weeks. The sub-units

from the three nations used these opportunities to conduct wings exchanges, learn each other's tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as operate together in tactical training scenarios.

While in Poland, troops from Mike Company earned their American wings by jumping T-11 parachutes from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. It was an exciting and enjoyable experience as they jumped from 1500 feet with a seven-second deployment count! The soft landings as a result of the large T-11 canopy was icing on the cake for those used to thundering in with CT-1s. Unfortunately, some of the young American and Polish jumpers who never used T-10s (CT-1s) were equally surprised that day.

ABOVE: Soldiers from Mike Coy conducting a multinational airfield seizure demo at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area. An MI-8 HIP transport helicopter flies over the line of soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment, Mike Coy. The company took part in a multinational fire power demonstration with the Polish 6th Airborne Brigade and American 173rd Airborne Brigade as part of the NATO exercise Op REASSURANCE on July 17, 2014 in Eastern Europe. (PHOTO BY CPL MARK SCHOMBS, IMAGERY TECHNICIAN, OP REASSURANCE)



Mike Company received clearance and authorization from ADM(Mat) to deploy the Polish AD-95 parachutes from C-130Js. Landing with the AD-95s was even softer than the T-11s, but came with a front-loaded cost of a violent exit because of the inherent design. Many of the jumpers experienced some unpleasant whiplash upon exit.

Mike Company's main focus on OP REASSURANCE was its participation in a NATO multinational airborne exercise in early September 2014, Exercise STEADFAST JAVELIN II. The company was able to tailor and focus its training plan with this NATO exercise in mind all through July and August while stationed in Poland. The group leveraged its proximity to Destined Coy at Drawsko Pomorskie, and learned the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the 173rd well ahead of the exercise. Para instructors from the company conducted several PD sessions with the American Para instructors to develop interoperable rigging methods using the T-11s and Harness Single Point Releases (HSPRs).

Being stationed next to an abandoned airfield in Poland came in handy, as the whole company was able to refresh and rehearse airborne standard operating procedures such as DZ RV drills, actions on hot DZ, and tactical movement in a light infantry context.

On September 2, 2014, Mike Company linked up with the 1/503rd Infantry from the 173rd IBCT at Ramstein Airbase in Germany to participate in EX STEADFAST JAVELIN II. Also attached to the 1/503rd was an Italian Para Company, and Bulgarian SOF Recce Platoon. The exercise consisted of 800 jumpers conducting an airborne insertion to seize an enemy airfield in Latvia. Mike Company successfully destroyed an enemy platoon after landing on the main airstrip and secured the southwest sector of Lielvarde Airfield (Latvia). Mike Company then continued on to secure an urban objective 1 km west of the airhead line. On day two, the 1/503rd force projected companies to conduct airmobile raids on a series of long range objectives. Mike



Company destroyed an enemy command and control node 200 kilometres away near Riga (Latvia) using 2 Chinooks and 4 Black Hawks, then returned back to the airfield.

STEADFAST JAVELIN II was an eye-opening experience for both the troops and leaders of Mike Company. The 173rd IBCT's mastery of airborne operations was quite apparent right from the start, as they were able to complete the planning and coordination for this complex operation with the re-grouping of all assets happening only 3 days prior to P-hour. The Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) mission destroyed all anti-aircraft capabilities around the airstrips, as well as enemy long range air defence capabilities in the air corridor from Germany to Latvia.

All paratroopers were cross loaded into 14 C-130 aircraft, and were given 45 minutes to secure their respective primary objectives once at the drop zone. The main airstrip received heavy equipment, vehicles, resupply, and air-land personnel from C-17s only one hour after P-hour. The first batch of C-17s landed in one minute intervals carrying 16 Strykers in complete blackout. The air-ground and indirect fire coordination on the airfield was controlled with precision, and C-17s and C-130s transported supplies in priority sequence from Ramstein continuously for three days.

The exercise reinforced the notion, already well recognized in the airborne community, that airborne operations are the fastest and most efficient way to build combat power behind enemy lines. The 173rd conducted a successful airfield seizure in Northern Iraq in 2003, and

TOP LEFT: At the request of the Polish Minister of National Defence, Mike Coy participated with a 50-man contingent during the Polish Armed Forces Day Parade on August 15, 2014. This picture shows Mike Coy paying respects to the President of Poland along with 20,000 spectators in Warsaw.

TOP RIGHT: Paratroopers from M Coy conducting a parachute descent from CC-130J Herc using Polish AD-95 chutes. (BOTH PHOTOS BY LT J-F CARPENTIER, 2 CMBG, PAO)

many of its leadership participated in an airfield seizure in Afghanistan with the Rangers in 2001.

For a small scale raid, deliberate attack or disruption operation, airmobile insertions provide a faster method of insertion and extraction. With airborne operations, buildup of large combat power (Bde, Div, Corps) behind enemy lines is possible through airfield seizures. The focus is on the reinforcement, buildup of combat power, and sustainment using C-17s. The seizure, protection, and operation of the Main Runway is the lifeline of the modern day airborne operation.

Any significant enemy resistance or anti-aircraft asset prior to the jump is a "no-go criteria" for the 82nd and the 173rd. The SEAD missions are designed to eliminate such threat, and even a loss of a single Herc due to enemy action would be a trigger to shift the primary objective into a rescue/recovery operation. As such, modern day airborne operations have evolved to the point it does not have to be synonymous with mass casualties. Advances in communications, precision strike, and optical technology makes airborne operations even more relevant today.

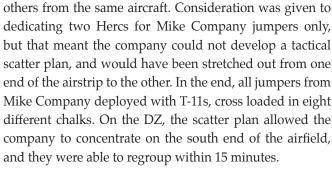
By participating in STEADFAST JAVELIN II, Mike Company was able to enhance its interoperability in a multinational airborne unit, and came out with some valuable lessons learned. When operating under the command of a different nation, it is important that the subunit use the same parachute as the host nation.

Mike Company wanted to bring their own chutes (CT-1) to Germany to demonstrate that they are contributors, and not solely reliant on NATO partners. However, this introduced more complexity to the equation as the Americans were only using T-11s. Pilots could only enter one parameter into the computer for chute ballistics for each chalk, which meant that CT-1s could not be intermixed with T-11s in a given aircraft. It would also have created

safety hazards in the air, as one type of chute would fall faster than the

NEAR RIGHT: On Exercise STEADFAST JAVELIN II, 100 paratroopers from Mike Coy jumped into Lielvarde Airfield in Latvia at night with the 173rd (U.S.) Airborne Brigade.

FAR RIGHT: During STEADFAST JAVELIN II, Mike Coy was cross-loaded into 8 different Hercules aircraft from Ramstein, Germany.



Another important lesson learned was the difference in mentality the 173rd had with respect to minimum force. During airfield seizures at the battalion and brigade level, the main effort lies with the capture and operation of the main runway in order to bring in troops, equipment, and supplies. Therefore, the first wave of paratroopers seizing the airfield must do so with speed while C-17s are circling above burning fuel.

For each objective on the airfield, minimum force was established not as a guideline, but a hard metric to launch onto that given objective. Even if waiting an additional five minutes meant that an entire company could assault an objective, the expectation from all levels of command was that a company would launch the assault immediately upon gathering its minimum force. By enforcing minimum force discipline, the main runway at Lielvarde Airfield was captured and rendered operational within one hour from the first jumper landing.

OP REASSURANCE was an excellent opportunity for Mike Company to refine and hone its airborne capability in a multinational setting. It was further proof that maintaining Para companies within light battalions is a wise investment for the Canadian Army. With relatively low cost and turnaround time for deployment, Para companies have the ability to force project and integrate easily with our NATO partners.







3 PPCLI

Bravo Company's 2014 Year in Review



he past year has been an eventful and enriching year for Bravo Company (B Coy) and the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI). The normal array of training activities was augmented with some challenging and distinct opportunities. Para Coy found itself on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Coast, and across the Atlantic while Battalion jumpers participated in commemorations and training events in Canada, the United States and Europe. Throughout 2014, airborne infantry skills were coupled with cultural exchanges and educational opportunities. It proved a rewarding mix for the entire battalion.

Exercise ARCTIC RAM 2014

In February, B Coy soldiers conducted a mass parachute descent from two CC-130J Hercules aircraft onto Barrow Lake near Kugaaruk, Nunavut, as part of Exercise ARCTIC RAM 2014. The two-week exercise, designed to address a

mass casualty scenario in the far north, saw B Coy deploy with the immediate task of securing an airline crash site and recovering casualties. The display of an airborne force, working in unison with other light force specialists, highlighted the significant capabilities offered by a light mobile force.

Following completion of the scenario-based tasks, the company conducted platoon-level live fire training on the ranges as well as additional Arctic survival training. Throughout the exercise, residents of Kugaaruk and members of 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group provided soldiers with guidance and traditional skills for surviving on the land.

The informal interactions between Rangers and Paratroopers made way for a series of cultural exchanges

ABOVE: Paratroopers descending on Barrow Lake during Exercise ARCTIC RAM 14.



within the community. Feasts were hosted at the Kugaardjuk Ilihakvik School by Principal Jerry Maciuk (a former Polish paratrooper himself) that gave soldiers the chance to sample local cuisine, including narwhal, polar bear and Arctic char, and gave a few brave souls a chance to try their hand at traditional Inuit games, much to the amusement of all. Drummers, dancers and throat singers all performed under the watchful eyes of the assembled Elders. For many coy members, it was their first time in the North and an experience not to be forgotten.

Operation REASSURANCE

In late April, the company deployed to Wainwright on Exercise PHALANX RAM — a validation exercise for 3 PPCLI's non-combatant evacuation task — but were soon after quarantined, issued a no-notice warning order and transported back to the Edmonton Garrison. Within five days, the Vanguard Platoon departed for Germany on Operation REASSURANCE as part of the Canadian government's reassurance measures to Central and Eastern European allies in the wake of escalating tensions in Eastern Europe.

In the following weeks, the main body, augmented by paratroopers and support personnel from across the battalion and 1 Field Ambulance, prepared to follow the Vanguard Platoon into Eastern Europe. On June 6, the main body departed Edmonton for Swidwin Airfield in northwestern Poland. Once reunited, B Coy, now known as the Land Element (LE) Task Force, moved into the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area (DPTA) and prepared itself for a unique training opportunity.

OP REASSURANCE offered the soldiers of the LE the chance to put the principles of interoperability into practice.



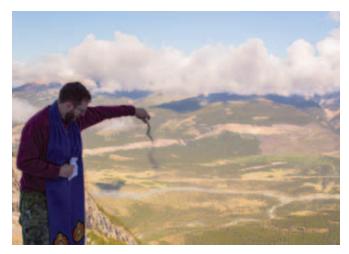
From the initial parachute descent of the Vanguard Platoon into Zagan, Poland, planning and training was done in a partnered environment with a variety of allied forces. Training included static ranges and familiarization shoots with each country's respective weapons systems, parachute training and a number of tactical exercises. These drills focused on parachute insertions with tasks tailored for airborne forces, including airfield seizure operations, patrolling and raids.

The RCAF, United States Air Force, United States Army Europe, and Siły Powietrzne (Polish Air Forces) provided significant support to the LE in the form of CC-130Js, CASA C295s, UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinook air assets. This support allowed for several exercises and static line and free fall parachute descents with our allies and memorable wings exchanges.

The training calendar and the close proximity of the DPTA to a region of such historic and cultural significance afforded the LE opportunities to participate in a number of powerful and relevant visits to sites that drastically shaped Canada and the world. Soldiers of the LE visited Gdansk (Danzig), the coastal city and site of the outbreak of the Second World War; Stalag Luft III, the Luftwaffe prisoner of war camp and site of "The Great Escape"; the cultural centre of Krakow, and the Polish capital of Warsaw. All of these visits were at the

TOP LEFT: Polish paratroopers earn their Canadian Wings during a friendship jump near Ziemsko, Poland. MCpl Wallace dispatching. (SGT BERN LEBLANC)

TOP RIGHT: Polish Private Dajek, U.S. Staff Sergeants Trappe and Chambers, Privates Paradis and Klaus, discuss 60mm mortar employment on Exercise ORZEL ALERT near Zagan, Poland. (SGT BERN LEBLANC)



invitation of Canada's ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Alexandra Bugailiskis.

Throughout these excursions, the tremendous cost borne at each was evident. All members of the LE had the chance to spend a solemn day visiting the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camps. This visit, perhaps more than the others, was deeply personal, with each member able to reflect on the horrors they stand in direct opposition to. For all of the reminders of total war and symbols of oppression, both fascist and communist, the vibrancy and reawakening of the last 25 years was subtly palpable, observed in the cityscapes and felt with our comrades from the 6th Airborne Brigade.

70th Anniversary Operation OVERLORD

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of Operation OVERLORD, members of 3 PPCLI were able to take part in the 14th annual D-Day ceremony at 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cairn, Siffleur Falls, Alberta. Members of Para Coy and the Battalion, along with jumpers from British Army Training Unit Suffield and 1st Special Force Group (Airborne) (1st SFG(A)) from Joint Base Lewis-McCord (JBLM), Washington, USA, descended into Abrams Lake from a World War II-era Dakota, courtesy of Buffalo Airways out of Yellowknife, NT.

The ceremony included a solemn parade at the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cairn, international wings exchange with allied partners and an ascent of Mount Ex Coelis with a memorial service on Normandy Peak. The ashes of six members of the airborne family were carried with the climb team and committed as Sentinel Guardians of the cairn under the benediction of 3 PPCLI Padre Felix Roberge.



At the same time, 3 PPCLI contributed a small contingent to participate in OP DISTINCTION, the army's contribution to the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in France. LCol Errington served as the overall exercise director and Airborne Force Commander, and the Battalion served as the coordinating headquarters. Jumpers from across the CA took part in the multinational airborne descent at Ranville, France. The exercise was highlighted by the para descent with allied forces, battlefield tours and commemorations attended by numerous dignitaries, including His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Menton Days

In December, 3 PPCLI provided a 23-person contingent to celebrate Menton week with the 1st SFG(A) at JBLM. This annual celebration commemorates the deactivation of the combined U.S. and Canadian First Special Service Force, which occurred in Menton, France, on December 5, 1944.

The celebration was comprised of numerous events that fostered comradeship between PPCLI soldiers and the 1st SFG(A). The week commenced with an opening ceremony followed by a Canadian, U.S. wings exchange parachute jump. PPCLI soldiers, along with approximately 200 1st SFG(A) personnel, descended from UH-60 Black Hawk

TOP LEFT: 3 PPCLI Padre Felix Roberge scatters the ashes during a service on Normandy Peak. Members ascended Mount Ex Coelis and committed the ashes of six fallen comrades as Sentinel Guardians of the cairn atop the mountain.

TOP RIGHT: Also involved in this memorial service were members of 2551 Edmonton PPCLI Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.



helicopters under American MC-6 parachutes. Canadian jumpers also participated in a High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) parachute demonstration with their U.S. brothers in arms. The jumps concluded with a wings exchange parade where Lieutenant-Colonel Adair, Commanding Officer 3 PPCLI, and Colonel Otto Liller, Commander 1st SFG(A), addressed the parade. The week continued with a military skills competition, with PPCLI soldiers augmenting 1st SFG(A) Company teams. Patricia's competed alongside their American counterparts, conducting a rucksack march and various dynamic live fire range applications.

The week concluded with the contingent attending the Menton Ball — an outstanding end to a great week. The annual Menton celebrations hosted by 1st SFG(A) provide an excellent opportunity to not only honour the legacy of the First Special Service Force, but to continue to maintain excellent relations with close allies.

Basic Parachutist Course

Sprinkled among the numerous para training activities, B Coy took the lead in producing more qualified jumpers in Western Canada. Two serials of the Basic Parachutist course were run in October 2014 and January 2015. These courses — conducted with the support of the Canadian Advanced Army Warfare Centre and structured with the same progressions every para qualified soldier is accustomed to — saw a total of 74 jumpers added to the brotherhood.

Unique to the first of these serials was an address by Major General (ret'd) Pitts, whose words of encouragement bridged a generational gap and instilled a greater understanding of the legacy and sacrifice of those who jumped before us. Presented with a mounted CR-1 Reserve



plaque for his contributions and service to the jumping community, MGen Pitts in turn gifted the token back to the Battalion, as an award for the top Basic Para candidate for future serials.

Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn

After returning from Poland in mid-July, Para Coy was given the Battalion lead to field a 100-man guard for the PPCLI 100th Anniversary Centennial Parade. The parade saw contingents from all three battalions assemble, to proudly march their colours, with the latest battle honour of Afghanistan, in front of a supportive audience of Patricia's, Edmontonians, Albertans and Canadians. During the same weekend, B Coy participated in the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn unveiling ceremony in Griesbach village, Edmonton. Organized by the Airborne Social Club and attended by numerous dignitaries, including the Colonel-in-Chief, the dedication was a simple, yet significant tribute to the brotherhood of paratroopers.

The cairn, a registered national monument and dedicated to all fallen paratroopers, stands as a permanent feature in Perron-Berger Park. The opportunity to provide this Honour Guard, in the presence of many veteran jumpers and men

TOP LEFT: 1st Special Forces Group and members of the Canadian Army's B Company, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry Regiment took time to remember fallen comrades and commemorate a series of important anniversaries at JBLM during Menton Week, December 8–11, 2014. (u.s. ARMY PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MICAH VANDYKE, 19[™] PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT)

TOP RIGHT: Major Doug Russell presents Canadian Wings to members of the 1st SFG – JBLM, Washington. (COURTESY 1ST SPECIAL FORCES GROUP)



who exited before us to pave the way for our current role, felt fitting for all participants. 3 PPCLI had contributed contingents to previous ceremonies over the years as this project was moving towards completion. To parade at this final unveiling, the fruition of the dedicated work of so many was an honour for the Paratroopers assembled.

The Next Chalk

Throughout the past year, Para Coy has continued to display the flexibility required of light forces and perpetuated the professionalism expected of airborne forces. The breadth of training opportunities in all environments and the successes achieved highlight the resiliency and strength of all para qualified members.

At the time of writing, Para Coy is preparing to conduct multiple tactical insertions, including exercises to commemorate the 70th anniversary of OP VARSITY and multinational training with Dutch and Belgian airborne partners.

ABOVE: Following an airborne insertion, paratroopers from 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry march to their staging area to conduct an exercise in the Oleszno training area of Poland on July 4, 2014 as part of NATO reassurance exercises. (SGT BERN LEBLANC, CANADIAN ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

BELOW: Canadian HALO jumper landing at JBLM. (COURTESY 1ST SPECIAL FORCES GROUP)







3 R22ER

Sur la route de la haute disponibilité aéroportée

par Lt Pascal Poulin & Lt Charles Cloutier, Cmdt pon 1 & 3, cie Para 3R22eR

'année 2014–15, pour la compagnie aéroportée du 3° Bataillon R22eR, fût sans aucun doute une année bien remplie. D'abord dans le cadre de la montée en puissance de la Force Opérationnelle (FO) 2-15, puis au moment même d'écrire ces lignes, comme force désignée pour la Roto 4 de l'OP REASSURANCE. En effet, des champs de tirs, toutes armes confondues, en passant par les sentiers de combat individuel ou en groupe, aux exercices en campagne de tirs réels du niveau de section jusqu'au niveau de bataillon, les membres de la compagnie de parachutistes (cie Para) du 3R22eR se sont entraînés tout au long de l'année 2014–15.

Notre objectif était d'être opérationnellement prêt à être déployés dans n'importe quel région du globe et ce, en mettant la capacité aéroportée au premier plan. Le spectre des conflits internationaux comporte de multiples facettes et le soldat canadien se doit d'être prêt à y faire face. Par conséquent, c'est cette vision que la chaîne de comman-

dement de la cie Para a appliquée lors de chaque exercice ou entraînement, que ce soit dans les secteurs d'entraînement de la Base Valcartier ou bien dans les secteurs civils afin de parfaire notre formation.

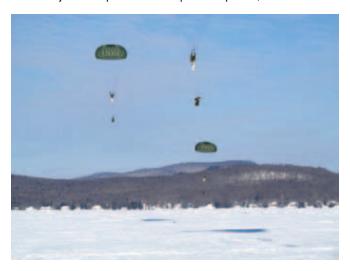
L'été 2014 a d'abord marqué un changement de garde dans le leadership de la compagnie. L'équipe de commandement du Maj Gauthier et de l'Adjum Isabelle a passé le flambeau au Maj Masse et l'Adjum Scotto D'Anielo, non sans être fier d'avoir passé une année excessivement mouvementée avec un exercice de l'OTAN en Norvège en faisant des opérations aéroportées une priorité.

CI-HAUT: Changement de garde à la Cie Para du 3R22eR. De gauche à droite : Adj Chagnon, CQ Sortant; Adjum Isabelle, SMC sortant; Maj Gauthier, Cmdt cie sortant; Maj Masse, Cmdt cie désigné; Adjum Scotto D'Anielo, SMC désigné; Adj Guimont, CQ désigné; Capt George, CmdtA cie désigné.



Début août, les membres sélectionnés de la cie Para ont participé à la compétition internationale de parachutisme militaire, le *Leapfest*, conduit chaque année dans l'État du Rhodes Island. Avec un minimum de préparation, les guerriers de la A ont, comme toujours, fièrement représenté le Canada en terminant la 1ère équipe internationale et 2e au classement général.

Par la suite, la période automnale marquait un grand moment pour l'histoire du Royal 22° Régiment. C'était le centenaire du régiment, événement souligné par plusieurs activités dont la marche du 100°, sous le nom de l'OP CASTOR PÉLERIN. Cette activité, organisée par la cie Para, a permis de relier à la marche, le berceau du Régiment, StJean-sur-Richelieu, à sa maison mère actuelle, la citadelle de Québec. Une délégation de parachutistes a également donné plusieurs présentations grandement appréciées par la population locale tout au long du parcours. Les civils sont toujours impressionnés par les paras, leur sens de





Les Paras commencent souvent leurs exercices par des insertions aéroportées.

CI-HAUT: Des images de l'EX RAFALE BLANCHE : sauts tactiques sous les ordres du 5 GBMC.

CI-BAS: Des photos de l' EX PEGASE AUDACIEUX : saut sur le lac St-Joseph (à gauche) et l'insertion de motoneige.



l'excellence comme combattants, et leur moyen d'insertion si spectaculaire.

Le 100° du régiment passé, ce fut le temps de mettre la priorité sur l'entraînent tactique. Dans le cadre de la montée en puissance de la Force Opérationnelle (FO) 2-15, la cie Para a été appelée à participer à plusieurs exercices afin de valider son niveau de préparation. Du niveau individuel, dans les sentiers de combat et jusqu'au niveau de compagnie, les membres ont testé leur niveau de cohésion, de compétence et de résilience face à la fatigue et la température froide et humide de l'automne. Comme à l'habitude, la cie Para a très bien performé en faisant preuve de professionnalisme tout en montrant l'étendue de ses qualités guerrières. De plus, des exercices supplémentaires ont été organisées dans le but d'intégrer l'insertion aéroportée aux missions tactiques.

Cette préparation culmina avec l'exécution de l'EX RAFALE BLANCHE 15, alors que c'était au bataillon tout entier d'être validé par le biais de l'établissement d'une position défensive. Comme à l'habitude, les paras allaient débuter l'exercice par une insertion aéroportée. Alors que

deux sauts étaient prévus, chacun menant à un raid sur une position ennemie, le premier fut annulé dû à la météo qui faisait des siennes. Heureusement, lors du deuxième, malgré le froid sibérien, tous les membres du groupe-compagnie se rendirent au point de rassemblement au sol, et ce sans blessures. L'EX RB 15 fut une véritable réussite pour la cie Para qui fut un élément de manœuvre important de la brigade grâce à sa capacité unique.

Ce n'est cependant pas à cause d'une réussite qu'il faut s'asseoir sur ses lauriers. C'est ainsi que la cie Para mena en février l'EX PÉGASE AUDACIEUX dont le but était d'améliorer différentes aptitudes au combat. Après une semaine axée sur le combat en zone urbaine et le déplacement tactique en ski tracté (ski joerring), la cie Para s'est lancée dans une opération d'insertion complexe. Les membres de la compagnie ont sauté sur la glace du lac St-Joseph à partir de deux hélicoptères Griffons du 430 ETAH. Les mêmes hélicoptères ont également transportés les motoneiges sur le terrain. Après un déplacement en ski, les militaires ont lancé l'assaut sur un bâtiment complexe du camp Dubé, le tout se terminant par la prise en



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charge et l'extraction complète des blessés et prisonniers par les Griffons. Tant du côté de la planification que de l'exécution, ce fut un excellent exercice où tous ont beaucoup appris.

Finalement, alors qu'on se lançait dans les préparatifs du 20° anniversaire de fondation de la cie Para, nous avons été assignés pour la Roto 4 de l'OP REASSURANCE, en Pologne de juillet à décembre 2015. La priorité est maintenant d'avoir un groupe-compagnie para de 120 militaires, prêt à sauter en opération afin de remplir toutes tâches demandées. Prêt à relever le défi, les parachutistes de la cie A sont heureux et fiers d'être appelés à servir outre-mer en



CI-HAUT, À GAUCHE: Leapfest 2014 : Meilleure équipe internationale.

CI-HAUT, À DROITE: Un véhicule blindé léger du Royal 22e Régiment conduit le défilé, sur la Rue Bleury, à Montréal, pour la grande première du documentaire « Je me souviens : 100 ans du Royal 22e Régiment » produit par l'Office national du film du Canada, le 4 septembre 2014 au cinéma Impérial de Montréal, dans le cadre des célébrations du centenaire du Royal 22e Régiment. (CPL NEDIA COUTINHO, SECTION D'IMAGERIE ST-JEAN/MONTRÉAL)

démontrant leur esprit guerrier et leur professionnalisme à leurs alliés de l'OTAN.

Ex Coelis

DONATIONS FOR ALYSSA SIPPLEY: A BIG THANK YOU!

he Airborne Regiment Association of Canada would like to thank all members of the airborne family who so very generously donated money for the care and future well-being of Alyssa Sipley, who had both her hands and legs amputated as a result of a very serious illness in November 2014. Alyssa is the granddaughter of Retired MWO Phil Sippley, who served with AB HQ & Sigs as QM from 1973 to 1976, AB School and with the SkyHawks from 1982 to 1986.

Alyssa contracted a Type A strep throat that was gravely serious. Her initial chances for survival were only five per cent. Thankfully, with the excellent care of doctors and nurses at the hospital in Halifax, N.S., her chances were brought back up to 95 per cent but

at the cost of losing all her limbs. Along with generous donations of the airborne community, her family, friends and members of the public have raised \$122,749 to date through the website GoFundMe.

The fund is still accepting donations.

MASTIR

If you would like to contribute, please go: http://www.gofundme.com/alyssasippley





QOR

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2014 in Review

> By Maj Scott Moody, OC Para Coy

he Queen's Own Rifles of Canada had an impressive year in 2014-15. The year started with The QOR of C finishing off the Basic Recce and Mountain Operations Course they ran for 32 CBG Battle School. Once these courses wrapped up, Exercises NEPTUNE PHOENIX 1 and 2 took place during April and May 2014. These exercises focused on offensive operations within a Battle Group context. They were held to prepare for the annual summer concentration in August. The QOR of C provided a parachute company for these exercises. A jump was attempted but was weathered out.

With the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion in June, The QOR of C sent a guard to Normandy to participate in a variety of commemorations. One member had the opportunity to participate in the commemorative jump onto DZ Ranville, France. This was a fantastic experience for all those involved.

The summer stand-down in typical QOR of C was the exact opposite. The unit conducted the annual refresher at

the end of June and then the third annual exported Basic Parachutist Course for select primary reserve members from the 4th Canadian Division was run in July. The course was held at CAAWC and graduated 30 new jumpers. The unit also participated in Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN, a 10-day exercise that was held in the Niagara Region during August. An airborne 'seize and hold' was planned for Welland Airport, however it was cancelled due to operational requirements.

At stand-to in September the unit began to prepare for offensive operations on Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE 1 in Meaford, Ontario. This exercise focused on recce and fighting patrols and was a great start to the training year.

ABOVE: A member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada waits on the tarmac with fellow paratroopers from Canada, France and the United States prior to making an historic jump onto Drop Zone Ranville, as part of the many events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. A fantastic experience for those involved.



A month later The QOR of C deployed to Petawawa, and worked with 3 RCR Mike Company and Recce Platoon to execute a company sized airborne raid on the Urban Operation Village.

In November, The QOR of C conducted an airborne 'seize and hold' of Mountain View Airport just outside of Trenton. The airborne 'seize and hold' of an airfield is the ideal operation for The QOR of C as we have a mix of jumpers and non-jumpers. The jumpers seize the airfield and then the remainder of the unit inserts as the follow-on force. During this exercise the unit did just that: Para Coy seized the airfield and the follow-on force air-landed to build up combat power. Once the mission was complete the entire force was extracted by CC-130J.

During the months of November and December The QOR of C provided a great deal of support to 426 Squadron. This squadron trains the new crews for the CC-130J. The QOR of C supports their personnel static-line parachute qualification drops. This consisted of a crew of jumpers and jumpmasters from the unit staying in Trenton for several weeks. The QOR of C Para Coy also took advantage of this opportunity to conduct a platoon-sized drop.

With the winter weather came winter-warfare training in January and February. To do this, The QOR of C conducted two exercises. The first exercise was called Exercise FROZEN PEGASUS and was held at Mountain View Airfield. The exercise culminated in a full-equipment drop onto DZ Hodgson. The second exercise was held in CFB Borden, as the DZ on that base was closed. To provide the opportunity for good airborne skill development, a CC-130J was boarded at Lake Simcoe Regional Airport. An in-flight dress and jump into DZ Hodgson in Trenton was



then made. Between these exercises we a section was also sent to work with 3 RCR, Mike Company. This was done to continue to build the positive relationship between the units with the secondary effect of exposing our soldiers in airborne operations to the Reg F.

At the end of February another Basic Mountain Operations course was initiated, which continued throughout the month of March. At the end of March another parachute drop was planned and attempted, however, the jump gods were not with us and the winds were too high.

The operational and training temp for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is extremely high. As a reserve unit we have continued to raise the bar by running numerous unique specialty courses such a Basic Parachutist and Basic Mountain Operations. Additionally, in one fiscal year we conducted eight exercise static-line parachute drops and planned three more that were stop-drops due to weather. This was done while still supporting expeditionary operations, the 32 CBG Battle School and Reserve Summer Training, as well as supporting 436 and 426 Squadron personal static-line parachute needs and maintaining our commitment as the Battle Group lead. ■

TOP LEFT: Parachutes deploy quickly after members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada jump from the side door of a CC-130 Hercules during a training exercise. The reserve unit was able to conduct eight exercise static-line parachute drops and planned three more that were stop-drops due to weather in one fiscal year.

TOP RIGHT: Fully equipped paratroopers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada cross the tarmac and head towards a waiting CC-130 Hercules.





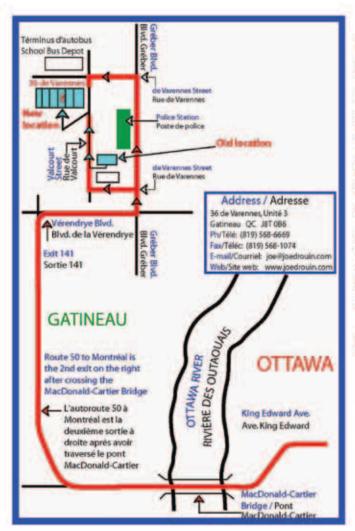




MAIN PHOTO: Paratroopers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada make their way towards the drop zone after jumping from a CC-130 Hercules.

INSET PHOTOS: Parachutists prepare to land onto their drop zone during the annual refresher course.





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CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Master Corporal T.A. Henrich, M Coy, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment



aster Corporal Tyler Henrich joined the Canadian Armed Forces on September 19, 2005. He has served with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment since May 2006. After completing numerous courses at the unit, including Basic Para, he deployed to Afghanistan with TF 3-08. Upon return, he successfully completed Jumpmaster and the Basic Recce Patrolman course, before becoming a member of Recce Platoon. In 2012, MCpl Henrich was moved to M Company (M Coy) where he excelled in the Air Cell as a Jumpmaster and Section Second in Command (2IC). In M Coy, he became a Parachute Instructor and was appointed to Master Corporal on August 5, 2013.

The year 2014 was a busy one for MCpl Henrich. He was employed in the early months of the year as a PI on several B Para courses, where his strong communication skills and a desire to improve the battalion's airborne capabilities were noted.

In June his parachute skills were recognized when he was given the opportunity to participate in the international jump over Normandy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day. In July, MCpl Henrich deployed with M Coy Group on Operation REASSURANCE's Land Task Force (LTF), the NATO response to building tensions in the Baltic Region.

Originally employed as the Land Task Force Company Quarter Master Section Second in Command (LTF CQMS 2IC), MCpl Henrich proved highly effective in working with platoons to coordinate their supply needs while supervising other members of the CQ element. The LTF

ABOVE: Master Corporal T.A. Henrich is presented with the CAFA/ARAC Airborne Soldier of the Year Award. He has been recognized for his dedication and service to the unit, and his ability to get the job done.



CQ was repatriated shortly into the deployment and MCpl Henrich met the challenge of filling a position well beyond his rank level. It was in this position that the TF Commander noted his ability to manage both resources and personnel, filling — and often exceeding — the LTF supply and sustainment needs. This was highlighted when M Coy group travelled to Ramstein Airbase in Germany to participate in Exercise SABRE JUNCTION 14, a multinational airfield seizure.

Henrich worked with American JMs to devise a practical system to rig the Canadian rucksacks and various weapons with the American parachute systems. He also worked around the clock to secure enough of the required equipment to ensure that the company group could jump into the exercise prepared to meet any challenges. Following the initial insertion, MCpl Henrich continued to coordinate with the American supply system to ensure that all of the company's sustainment needs were met while participating in the exercise.

In late September 2014, as Roto 1 of the LTF was preparing to return to Canada, MCpl Henrich coordinated the transportation of the company stores back to Canada. His hard work and outstanding results throughout the deployment on OP REASSURANCE were recognized and he was subsequently awarded the Task Force Commander's Commendation.

Without the continuous effort by MCpl Henrich to coordinate with the Americans, many of the airborne operations carried out in the Baltic region would not have been possible.

MCpl Henrich continued to prove his value to the company after returning to Canada by providing sound

LEFT: Master Corporal Tyler Henrich, recipient of the 2014 CAFA/ARAC Airborne Soldier of the Year Award, has served with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment since May 2006. He has served as part of deployments to Afghanistan as well as on OP REASSURANCE.

sustainment support at the level 3 and 4 live fire ranges. When the company was given the task to support a CAF recruiting campaign, he also worked to support the company's task of completing para descents. He capped off his professional development by successfully completing the Advanced Small Arms course as the top candidate.

Throughout the year, MCpl Henrich has proven himself a quiet professional with infectious optimism who embodies the values of the Airborne Association. Completing any task he is assigned with a sense of determination and a steadfast 'never quit' attitude, his value to the parachute capabilities of the company and battalion were proven time and time again through his actions and ability to be employed in a position well above his current rank level. MCpl Henrich is an example for all others to follow.



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1 CAN PARA

Commemoration of 1st Canadian Parachute
Battalion's 1945 Dishandment

by Adrienne Anderson



arks Canada honoured the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion on Saturday, September 20, 2014, by accepting a plaque commemorating the Battalion's disbandment at Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 1945. The plaque is the first in a current project to honour all Canadian regiments with history in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The plaque was unveiled in ceremonies hosted by Col. Scott Bowman, founder and Headmaster of Robert Land Academy at the Academy's campus in Wellandport, Ontario. Student cadets of the Academy were joined by the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 from Brighton, Ontario, under the command of Capt Pam Hohner, in a parade that honoured the attending Battalion veterans and their families.

LCol John Fotheringham, past commanding officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, conducted the unveiling program that included greetings from The Hon. Rob Nicholson, then-minister of National Defence; Mr.

Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls; and Mr. Dave Eke, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. Peter Martin of Parks Canada Fort George Site gave an overview of the military history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. William Talbot and Mr. Keith Metcalfe, veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, also participated in the ceremony.

Battalion commander, the late LCol Fraser Eadie, had written his recollections of the Battalion's post-wartime at Niagara-on-the Lake in July, August and September of 1945, prior to disbandment. These recollections were read by Mrs. Joanne de Vries. Also in attendance were Battalion veterans Mr. Andy Anderson, Mrs. Adrienne Anderson, Mrs. Helen Talbot and Mrs. Jean Metcalfe.

ABOVE: Veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and members of the Cadet Corps #100 from Brighton, Ontario pose on September 20, 2014, after accepting a plaque commemorating the Battalion's disbandment at Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 1945.



The March Past salute was taken by LCol Fotheringham. Capt Ben-Jaemin Lee, Commanding Officer in the Parachute Training Company, Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre, joined LCol Fotheringham in the inspection of the parade.

The Battalion's commemorative plaque is now in place along Sheaffe Road, adjacent to Butler's Barracks and close to where John Street East and Charlotte Street meet in Niagara-on-the-Lake. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1) Members of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 parade prior to the ceremony. (2) Capt Ben-Jaemin Lee (left), Commanding Officer in the Parachute Training Company, Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre, joined LCol John Fotheringham (centre) and Col. Scott Bowman, founder and Headmaster of Robert Land Academy, in the inspection of the parade. (3) LCol John Fotheringham, past commanding officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, reviews the Cadet Corps. (4) Keith Metcalfe, a veteran of 1st Can Para Bn, addresses the crowd at the ceremony.

(5) Honoured guests attended the ceremony. (6) Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls, William Talbot, Andy Anderson and Keith Metcalfe pose with the commemorative plaque at the Robert Land Academy in Wellandport, Ontario. The plaque commemorates the Battalion's disbandment at Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 1945 after the war.















CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1) John Ross receiving the Legion of Honour on June 6, 2014 at the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France. A number of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion veterans received the Legion of Honour at this ceremony for their part in the Liberation of France. WWII veterans who fought in France between June 6 and August 31, 1944 were eligible for the award. Congratulations to them all. (2) The Legion of Honour was presented to Mark Lockyer (seated at left) at the Whitby Legion on April 12, 2015 for his part in the Liberation of France. We were privileged to have LCol Jean-Christophe Valade, French Liaison Officer at the Canadian Forces College, present the medals to both Mark and Wilf Delory (standing on left), who received his in November 2014 at the Pickering Legion. (Wilf's medals were away getting mounted, which is why he is not wearing them.) Rick Kurelo (kneeling at bottom right) spoke with Mark after the medal presentation. (3) Wilf Delory, LCol Jean-Christophe Valade and Mark Lockyer at the Legion.





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Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn

Construction, Dedication & Unveiling

by Capt (ret'd) Bill Dickson photos by MWO (ret'd) Dave Paris (DP) & Capt (ret'd) Bill Dickson (BD)

CAIRN COMMÉMORATIF DES TROUPES AÉROPORTÉES DU CANADA

Construction, dédicace & inauguration

traduction par Alain Gaudet photo par Adjum. (ret.) Dave Paris (DP) et Capt (ret.) Bill Dickson (BD)

he idea to build the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn (CAMC) originated some time ago. The development of the Stage 7 area within the Griesbach Garrison (now the Village at Griesbach), from 2005 to 2006 involved close cooperation with members of Canada Lands and veterans of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, as well as members of the present military community. Stage 7 falls in the zones originally designated to remember and honour the Canadian Airborne and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

On September 10, 2006, a ceremony was held dedicating the area, which includes the Canadian Airborne Plaza, located at the west end of Patricia Lake. A number of street names, concrete pedestals with brass plaques and storyboards — outlining the history of the Canadian Airborne in the Second World War and the Canadian Airborne Regiment, which was based in Griesbach from 1968 to 1977 — completed the dedication of the area and

e projet de construction d'un cairn commémoratif des Troupes aéroportées du Canada date d'il y a longtemps. La construction en 2005–2006 de la section 7 dans la zone même de la garnison de Griesbach (de nos jours appelée « Village de Griesbach » impliquait une coopération étroite entre Canada Lands et les vétérans du Régiment aéroporté du Canada ainsi que de la communauté militaire dans son sens le plus large. La section 7 se situe dans les zones attribuées à la commémoration des Troupes aéroportées canadiennes ainsi qu'au Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Le 10 septembre 2006 la cérémonie de dédicace du site fut faite sur les lieux même et incluait par la même occasion, le Canadian Airborne Plaza situé à l'ouest du lac Patricia.

Plusieurs rues, piédestaux en béton avec des plaques en bronze relatant l'histoire des Troupes aéroportées canadiennes en 1939–1945 et du Régiment aéroporté du



explained the significance of these names and events to the City of Edmonton.

Included in the ceremony, but tabled for completion at a later date, was the naming of the future Perron-Berger Park. It was named after the two Canadian Airborne Regiment soldiers who were killed in Cyprus in 1974.

The Perron-Berger Park was far from completion when the idea to place a cairn there was put forward. Although the idea was not immediately acted upon, it was reprised once the park was eventually completed.

The plan brought up a number of questions: Who would manage the project? What would we call it? How would we build it? Where would we get the money? Who would undersign the project to begin with? There was also the fact that we were waiting for the Navy's project to be constructed at the south-west end of the park. Their project was to commemorate the Royal Canadian Navy's 100th Anniversary in connection with a ceremony held in June 2010. Prudence suggested that maybe we shouldn't overlap. However, we charged away anyway.

We formed a small committee of three and discussions began in earnest. We planned to build a cairn honouring the legacy, not only of Perron and Berger, but the broader historical contribution of Canada's Airborne soldiers to Griesbach, the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta. The project paper for the CAMC was written and the job of selling the idea to the masses began.

Meetings with Canada Lands Corporation (CLC) began in late 2010. The designs were drafted by IBI Group and selected, cost estimates were produced, timelines discussed, briefings with city councillors and infrastructure personnel were held and meetings were conducted with the park to discuss site selection.

The executive of the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC) was briefed on the project and an account

In June 2013, the sod-turning ceremony was held at the site of the future Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn in Perron-Berger Park being blessed by Padre Capt Howard Rittenhouse. (DP) // L' aumônier Capt Howard Rittenhouse bénit le site futur du cairn commémoratif des Troupes aéroportées lors de la dédicace du Parc Perron-Berger avec une cérémonie de la première pelletée de terre pour le cairn. (DP)

Canada qui était en garnison à Griesbach de 1968 à 1977, furent mis à l'honneur ainsi que les liens importants que ces noms et événements avaient avec la ville d'Edmonton.

Il fut inclus et dit durant la cérémonie, qu'à une date ultérieure le parc porterait le nom de « Parc Perron-Berger » et ce, pour honorer les deux soldats du Régiment aéroporté qui furent tués durant leur mission à Chypre en 1974.

Le Parc Perron-Berger était loin d'être terminé, mais on commençait à en parler comme l'emplacement idéal pour un cairn. L'idée d'y ériger un cairn tomba dans l'oubli pendant quelques années, mais refit éventuellement surface quand le parc fut terminé.

Si nous nous attaquions à la construction de ce cairn, qui gérerait le projet? Quel serait le nom du projet? Qui le construirait? Où trouverions-nous l'argent et qui s'en porterait garant?

Ce furent les premiers obstacles à surmonter et les questions auxquelles nous devrions répondre.

De plus, il y avait le projet de la Marine qui se construisait au sud-ouest du parc et celui-ci devait être inauguré pour son centième anniversaire en juin 2010.

Il était sage de ne pas empiéter ni d'entrer en compétition avec la programmation de la Marine et de ne pas interférer avec le déroulement de l'un ou de l'autre des projets. Cependant, nous nous sommes attelés à la tâche et nous avons formé un comité de trois personnes indépendamment du Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) (ABSC). Les discussions allèrent de bon train en vue de créer et de construire un cairn non seulement pour rendre hommage à Perron et à Berger mais pour honorer la contribution historique des parachutistes militaires canadiens ici à Griesbach, ainsi qu'à Edmonton et dans la province d'Alberta.

Donc le schéma directeur fut écrit pour la CAMC et nous devions maintenant convaincre tout le monde du bien fondé de ce projet.

Nous avons eu des réunions avec Canada Lands (CLC) en fin 2010. Le design du projet fut fait par IBI Group et accepté; des estimations de coût furent établies; des dates butoirs discutées; il y eut des briefings pour les conseillers



was opened with fund raising objectives put into place. By February 2011 enough planning had been done and a project support request submission was made to the City of Edmonton Councillors and then to the City itself in April. Replies supporting the project in principle were received in March and July.

During this period, the committee, CLC and IBI Group members continued to refine the project requirements. Cost estimates for plaques were also obtained and CLC/IBI personnel assisted with construction tender submissions.

The project was finally approved on May 31, 2012, subject to a maintenance agreement and the identification of the land as parkland in the City's inventory prior to any development. In order to keep them updated on the project, Marv Neumann, our Canada Lands rep, and I met with the City of Edmonton councillors from Wards 2, 3 and 4. As key supporters of the project, they needed to be kept abreast of our progress.

At the end of September 2012, we briefed the members of the Griesbach Community League (GCL) on the project. As the City of Edmonton required us to have a Maintenance Agreement in place before approval for the project would be given, we felt the GCL were the best group to sign on to this agreement. After all, the Airborne Social Club and its members likely won't be around forever!! The GCL agreed to take on the Maintenance Agreement and one more important step in the project was completed.

Around this time, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) came out with the Community War Memorial Program (CWMP). The program offered support of up to 50 per cent to any qualifying organization who wanted to construct a memorial. In order to qualify you had to be a non-profit organization. We also had to change the name of our

Project committee members Bill Dickson and John Johnston pushing fundraising efforts at the Griesbach Community League Picnic in September 2013. (BD) // En septembre 2013, Bill Dickson et John Johnston, membres du comité de projet, ont menu une charge de levée de fonds au piquenique de la ligue communautaire de Griesbach. (BD)

de la ville d'Edmonton et son personnel en charge de l'infrastructure; des visites eurent lieu pour sélectionner le site approprié dans le parc ; les membres de l'exécutif de l'Association du régiment aéroporté du Canada (ARAC) furent tenus au courant du projet; un compte fut ouvert avec des levées de fonds mises en place.

En février 2011, nous avions assez avancé au niveau du planning et de la sélection pour faire une demande auprès des conseillers de la ville d'Edmonton afin de soutenir le projet, une soumission similaire fut faite à la municipalité d'Edmonton elle-même en avril 2011.

Un accord de principe concernant le projet fut obtenu en mars et juillet 2011.

Pendant ce temps, le comité, le CLC et les membres du IBI Group continuèrent à affiner le cahier des charges du projet. Ensuite, nous avons reçu les devis pour les plaques et les membres du CLC/IBI aidèrent au processus de soumission des offres de construction. Le projet fut approuvé le 31 mai 2012 sous condition d'un accord de maintenance et qu'avant toute construction le terrain soit délimité comme parc appartenant à la ville.

Pour être tenu au courant des avancées au jour le jour du projet, le représentant de Canada Lands, Marv Neumann, et moi-même avons rencontré les conseillers des quartiers 1, 2, 3 et 4. En tant que supporters principaux du projet, il fallait les tenir au courant de nos avancées. En fin septembre 2012, nous avons briefé les membres de la ligue communautaire de Griesbach (GCL) à propos du projet.

Comme la ville d'Edmonton nous demandait d'avoir un accord d'entretient en place avant l'approbation du projet, nous avons pensé que le GCL était le mieux placé pour le faire. Nous savions que les membres du Airborne Social Club n'étaient pas éternels. Le GCL a donc signé l'accord de maintenance, et ce fut la finalisation d'un autre important pas de plus du projet.

A la même période, le ministère des Anciens Combattants mis sur pied le Community War Memorial Program (CWMP). Ce programme subventionnait jusqu'à 50% des fonds de tout projet d'organisation éligible. Naturellement,

Structure foundation work began at the end of March 2014, but was slow due to weather conditions (note snow in the background!). (BD) // Les travaux sur la fondation de la structure a débuté à la fin mars 2014, mais a subi des délais grâce aux conditions hivernales (la neige était toujours présente et le sol gelé). (BD)

project — from Perron-Berger to the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn — since funding not being given to projects honouring individuals.

Our Project Committee (PC) staffed a proposal and met with the executive of the A BSC in August to ask the club to undersign the project. They agreed and our application for funding from VAC under the CWMP was submitted in July 2013. It was approved that October. Subsequently, the CWMP Contribution Agreement was signed in November and December 2013 by the ABSC and the Minister of Veterans Affairs. This was an important milestone for us, as it was a back up guarantee to our own fundraising.

Our fundraising efforts had been going successfully and were gaining momentum. The ARAC project, initiated by Joe Drouin on behalf of the ARAC executive committee, developed a special commemorative coin depicting a design of the Cairn and honouring all paratroopers since 1942. It was a huge success. Adding to our joy, the City of Edmonton made a donation to the project, as did the Canadian Airborne Forces Association, Bornewest, as well as the Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) and a number of local contractors. Retired paratroopers and widows from across Canada also made individual donations; we were honoured to add their names to the Donor Plaque. The fundraising became so successful that eventually we had to call a halt to donations.

The contracting for the construction work to build the cairn had to be completed early in 2013 so that critical work could be completed — such as getting the site pilings down — before the ground froze. With the Assistance of CLC and IBI Group, we signed an agreement with G&M Stonework to finish the Cairn by August 2014. We were now committed. We were grateful that we had the follow up fundraising successes and VAC support to rely upon.

In June 2013, the 45th anniversary reunion for the formation of the Canadian Airborne Regiment was held in Edmonton. As a committee, it became clear we needed to action the dedication of the Perron-Berger Park — which had never been done — and conduct a sod turning ceremony for the cairn while the reunion was occurring. The plan



cela semblait une bonne source de fonds. Cependant, il y avait un hic : il fallait être une organisation à but non-lucratif.

Il fallut aussi changer le nom du projet : de Perron-Berger à Cairn commémoratif des Troupes aéroportées canadiennes, raison étant qu'après avoir lu les exigences pour l'obtention de fonds de la CWMP, qui stipulaient que les fonds n'étaient pas à mis à notre disposition si nous construisions un monument honorant un individu.

Notre comité de projet a fait une proposition écrite de demande de soutien au club et a rencontré l'exécutif du ABSC au mois d'août, le but étant que celui-ci se porte garant du projet. Le soutien a été accordé et notre demande de fonds au ministère des Anciens Combattants sous l'égide de la CWP a été soumise en juillet 2013 (presqu'à la 11ème heure) et reçu approbation en octobre.

En conséquence, l'accord de contribution de la CWMP a été signé par le ABSC et le ministère des Anciens Combattants en novembre et décembre 2013. Une fois ceci accompli, ce fut l'un des événements importants du projet car il était une sauvegarde au niveau de notre levée de fonds. Avant cela, nos efforts en ce qui concerne la levée de fonds avaient été un succès et prenait de la vitesse. Le projet de pièce de monnaie commémorative spéciale de l'ARAC, projet initié par Joe Drouin et sous l'égide du comité exécutif de l'ARAC, fut un grand succès. La pièce de monnaie représentait le cairn et honorait tous les parachutistes depuis 1942.

Nous fumes comblés de joie quand nous avons reçu des dons de la ville d'Edmonton, du Canadian Airborne Forces Association, Bornewest, et du Airborne Social Club (d'Edmonton) et de plusieurs entreprises de construction, de vétérans parachutistes et de veuves de tout le Canada



was put into motion quickly. With the support of the ABSC Reunion Committee, an Honour Guard (Commanded by Maj Torry White from Para Coy of 3 PPCLI), VIP supporters and hundreds of reunion attendees, we held a dedication and sod turning ceremony at the Perron-Berger Park on Sunday, June 9, 2013. Padre Capt Howard Rittenhouse conducted the blessing of the park and the cairn site while Retired MGen Herb Pitts, MC CD, cut the ribbon with our VIPs and turned the sod for the Cairn site. The event was a big success. The participation of our piper Retired MWO Colin Norris, the flag party and 'gold painted' contributed to make it a class act.

With the site location in place, the structural pilings for the cairn were implanted prior to freeze-up. This was a required step in the preparation phase, prior to the building and setting of the cairn itself. Off site preparation of the concrete cores for the central cairn and the three wing walls began in the late February/early March 2014. Work on the structure's foundation began in April, but poor weather slowed its completion. The wing walls and cairn were finally set in place on April 8 (which happens to be a significant date, as members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment will know.)

A combination of wet weather and clean-up by the construction company delayed the project further. Unfortunately, the concrete contractor quit because of the delays, which caused a bit of a panic. Luckily, we found a new contractor quickly and began the next stage of construction in late June.

At this point we had a real scare. Meeting with CLC reps for a discussion on the placement of pedestals at the entrance to the cairn, we decided to visit the site and

The wing walls and cairn were set in place on April 8, 2014 — a significant date in Canadian Airborne history! (BD) // Les murs en forme d'aile et le cairn furent mis en place le 8 avril. Pour vous les anciens du Régiment aéroporté, c'est une date importante! (BD)

et ce pour avoir leurs noms sur la plaque des donateurs. En fait, ce fut un tel succès qu'il nous a fallu y mettre un terme en donnant une date de fin de levée de fonds.

Début 2013, nous savions qu'il nous fallait signer rapidement le contrat de construction pour le cairn pour que certaines choses importantes soient faites — par exemple, les estacades métalliques devaient être en place et ce avant que la terre gèle. Avec l'aide de la CLC et du IBI Group nous avons signé un accord avec G&M Stonework pour que la date butoir de fin des travaux de construction du cairn soit en août 2014.

Nous étions maintenant pleinement engagés. Vous comprenez l'importance du succès de la levée de fonds et du nécessaire soutien du ministère des Anciens Combattants par le biais de la CWMP.

En juin 2013, nous avons eu à Edmonton la réunion pour le 45^{ème} anniversaire de la formation du Régiment aéroporté du Canada. Il était évident pour le comité qu'il nous fallait faire ce qui n'avait pas encore été fait, soit la dédicace du Parc Perron-Berger avec une cérémonie de la première pelletée de terre pour le cairn durant la durée de cette réunion.

Le plan fut mis en œuvre rapidement avec l'aide de la réunion du comité de l'ABSC. Une garde d'honneur aux ordres du Major Torry White, officier commandant la compagnie para du 3ème Bataillon du PPCLI, des VIPs soutenant le projet et des centaines de membres furent présents à la réunion. La dédicace et la première pelletée de terre se firent au Parc Perron-Berger le dimanche 6 juin 2013.

Le Capitaine Padré Howard Rittenhouse bénit le parc et le cairn et le Major Général (ret) Herb Pitts coupa le ruban avec nos VIPs et la première pelletée de terre fut tournée; en somme, ce fut un événement réussi à la perfection. Notre cornemuseur Adjum (ret.) Colin Norris, les porte-drapeaux et les pelles de couleur or ont apporté beaucoup de classe à la cérémonie.

Le lieu était maintenant bien délimité et les estacades métalliques avaient été mises en place avant l'hiver. C'est ce qui devait être fait dans la phase de préparation avant la construction et la mise en place du cairn.

Loin du site on préparait depuis février/mars 2014 les

The wing walls were set in place after the cairn was secured.

(BD) // Une fois le cairn sécurisé, les murs en forme d'aile furent mis en place. (BD)

take a first-hand look at what would be the best positions for these pedestals. The cribbing for the pouring of the concrete entrance was down and the workers were waiting for the concrete truck to arrive. Then the panic set in. As we viewed the site from the park pathway we realized the cribbing was offset and not properly in line with the cairn. Thankfully, our concrete man had a great "straps on, straps off" airborne attitude. He delayed the pouring session, reset the cribbing and aligned the entrance path true to the cairn. We don't know what would have happened had that concrete been poured in the original forms that day. You will never know now what kind of day that was for the team — at that point in the project the High Level Bridge nearly became an option.

The concrete work was completed by July 10 and the stonework setting was in place the following week. Both jobs were extremely well done and add class to the entranceway up to the cairn itself. Pedestal placement was done the first week of August, followed by the landscaping to the rear and sides of the grounds. At that point another cause for concern arose, as placement of the new sod required changing the positioning planned for the parade. With no time to spare, we adjusted accordingly — we had no choice!

Attachment of the bronze plaques and badges on the cairn and wing walls was done on the August 5. The Behrends installers, who produced the plaques, did a magnificent job. With this final task completed the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn became a reality. The site was covered and marked off in preparation for the Unveiling Ceremony on the August 10.

The date was chosen with care. Early in the project our liaison with the PPCLI 100th Anniversary Committee centered on various aspects of cooperative support to the project. Their Edmonton events were planned for August 7-10, 2014, with the final ceremony taking place very close to our location on the tenth. It became obvious that with the potential number of serving and veteran paratroopers attending their event, we needed to dove-tail our unveiling plan with that ceremony. So regardless of any finishing requirements to the CAMC, we felt the cairn project was finished enough to go with this plan — and we did.



carottes de béton du cairn principal et les trois murs. Les travaux sur les fondations structurelles débutèrent sur le site en avril, mais le mauvais temps ralentit cette phase de l'œuvre. Les murs en forme d'aile furent mis en place le 8 avril. Pour vous les anciens du Régiment aéroporté, c'est une date importante!

A partir de cette date, le mauvais temps et les obligations de nettoyage de la compagnie de construction ralentirent le projet encore plus. Le fournisseur de ciment jeta l'éponge à cause de ces délais, ce qui créa une petite panique dans les rangs. Heureusement, nous avons trouvé un autre fournisseur de ciment et il commença cette phase de l'œuvre fin juin. Ce fut durant ce travail préparatoire que nous avons eu une bonne peur.

Nous devions rencontrer les représentants de la CLC sur le site pour savoir où serait le meilleur endroit pour les piédestaux à l'entrée du cairn. Les cales en bois pour le béton à l'entrée du cairn étaient couchées et les ouvriers attendaient l'arrivée du camion de béton. Cependant, nous avons constaté avec stupeur que le calage en bois n'était pas aligné correctement avec le cairn. Arrêtez tout !! Heureusement, notre spécialiste du béton savait réagir correctement. Il retarda l'étalage du béton, remis correctement en place le calage en bois, et aligna le sentier avec le cairn.

Wow! On ne sait pas ce qui se serait passé ce jour-là si le béton avait été coulé selon le positionnement du calage d'origine. Vous ne pouvez savoir quelle sorte de journée ce fut pour l'équipe, aussi avancé qu'était le projet à ce moment là, que se jeter en bas d'un pont en désespoir de cause aurait été une option!

Le bétonnage a été terminé le 10 juillet et la maçonnerie a été mise en place la semaine suivante. Les deux œuvres



ABOVE: Luckily, a concrete man with an Airborne attitude saved the day and realigned the path. (BD) // **CI-HAUT:** Heureusement, notre spécialiste du béton a sauvé la journée lorsqu'il réaligna le sentier avec le cairn avant que le béton soit coulé. (BD)

ABOVE RIGHT: Pedestals placement was completed and the landscaping to the rear and sides of the cairn was nearing completion. (BD) // CI-HAUT, À DROITE: Le placement des piédestaux accomplie, l'aménagement paysager sur les côtés et à l'arrière du cairn était en voie d'être terminé. (BD)

We're all familiar with the importance that weather plays in the success of an outdoor ceremony. For those of us contending with the yearly 'you never know what you are going to get' weather scenario at the Airborne Monument D-Day Ceremonies at Siffleur Falls, you'll understand the angst we felt as we prepared for this day. Luckily, we needn't have worried. August 10, 2014 turned out to be a beautiful day. Not only that, the attendance for the Unveiling Ceremony far exceeded our expectations.

Looking out at the assembled dignitaries and active personnel, the sea of maroon blazers and berets — and of course the many significant others —was a moment of





ont été très bien faites et la beauté du design a mis en valeur le chemin menant au cairn lui-même.

Les piédestaux ont été positionnés la première semaine du mois d'août, par la suite le terrassement à l'arrière et sur les côtés du site. Un autre souci pour l'équipe eut lieu au même endroit; cette fois ce fut à la mise en place du gazon enroulé, car il aurait fallu changer le positionnement de tous les participants pour la parade. Il n'y avait plus de temps à perdre, alors nous avons fait de notre mieux et il fallait faire avec. Les points d'attache pour les plaques en bronze et les insignes sur le cairn et les murs en forme d'aile furent terminés le 5 août. La compagnie Behrends Bronze a fait du beau travail en installant les magnifiques plaques qu'elle avait fabriquée, permettant ainsi au Mémorial aéroporté de devenir une réalité. Par la suite, le secteur avait été couvert et délimité pour la cérémonie de dévoilement du 10 août.

Il est important d'expliquer encore une fois la logique derrière le choix du 10 août pour la cérémonie de dévoilement. Dès le début, nos contacts avec le comité du 100ème anniversaire du PPCLI étaient axés sur le soutien et la coopération mutuelle pour le projet. Leurs cérémonies à Edmonton devaient se tenir du 7 au 10 août 2014, et leur dernière cérémonie aurait lieu très près de la nôtre le dimanche. Il était évident que, vu le grand nombre de paras d'active et de vétérans présents qu'il fallait synchroniser le dévoilement avec cette cérémonie.

Peu importe ce qu'il restait à finir au CAMC, nous pensions que le projet de cairn était suffisamment « terminé » pour s'insérer dans le plan général. La majorité d'entre nous étaient des habitués des cérémonies à l'extérieur et nous savions tous l'importance qu'a la météo pour le succès de celles-ci. Pour ceux d'entre nous qui avait subi les aléas de la météo aux cérémonies du monument para du jour J à Siffleur Falls, vous comprendrez notre anxiété quand nous nous préparions pour ce jour.



pride for us. Everyone was there for a purpose and felt immense pride in the venture. Once the Honour Guard from B Company (Para) Commanded by Maj James Thamer had paid their respects to our senior VIPs and they were seated we began.

The program of events unfolded as follows:

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- Master Of Ceremonies: Captain (ret'd) Bill Dickson, CD
- *Guard Commander*: Major James Thamer, OC B Coy (Para)
- Padre: Lieutenant(N) Felix Roberge
- Piper: Master Warrant Officer (ret'd) Colin Norris, CD

GUARD FORM UP

- Flag Bearers Piquet Wing Walls
- Arrival of Lieutenant-Governor and VIPs
- Ceremony Introduction and Welcome MC
- Address by: MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts, MC CD
- Blessing and Prayer Dedication: Padre
- Lament: Piper
- Closing Remarks / Dismissal

UNVEILING PARTY

- Second World War 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Veteran: Pte. (ret'd) Walt Romanow
- 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Widow: Mrs. Isobel Allan
- Youngest Parachutist, 3 PPCLI: Pte. D.J.R. Renaud
- Canadian Airborne Regiment Widow: Mrs. San Dee Lyons

ATTENDING DIGNITARIES

- The Honourable Col. (ret'd) Donald S. Ethell, OC OMM AOE MSC CD LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta
- The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, PC CC CMM COM CD, Colonel in-Chief, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Many dignitaries attended the dedication and unveiling of the cairn, including the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Colonel (ret'd) Donald Ethell and The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, colonel-in-chief of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and former governor general of Canada. (DP) // Plusieurs dignitaires furent présent lors de la dédicace et inauguration du cairn, y inclus le lieutenant gouverneur d'Alberta, Colonel (ret.) Donald Ethell et la très honorable Adrienne Clarkson, colonel en chef du PPCLI et ancienne gouverneure générale du Canada. (DP)

Mais, nous n'avions rien à craindre. Le 10 août 2014 fut une journée radieuse. L'assistance pour le dévoilement excéda toutes nos attentes. En tant que maître de cérémonie, je regardais tous ces dignitaires présents, les paras d'active en uniforme, cet océan de blazers et bérets para ainsi que cette assistance nombreuse, et un sentiment de fierté et la prise de conscience de ce qui allait vraiment se dérouler m'envahit.

En fait, j'avais un peu peur, mais alors j'ai aussi compris que tous étaient ici pour une bonne raison et qu'eux aussi allaient être fiers de ce que ce projet avait permis d'accomplir.

Une fois que le Major James Thamer, commandant de la garde d'honneur de la Cie B (Para), eu présenté ses respects aux distingués VIPs, tous s'assirent et nous avons commencé. La meilleure façon d'en parler est par la description du programme dans ses grandes lignes.

PROGRAMME DES ÉVÈNEMENTS

- » Maître de cérémonie (MC): Capt (ret.) Bill Dickson, CD
- » Commandant de la garde: Major James Thamer, OC B Coy (Para)
- » Aumônier: Lieutenant(N) Felix Roberge
- » Cornemuse: Adjudant-maître (ret.) Colin Norris, CD

FORMATION DE LA GARDE

- » Porte-drapeaux le long des murs en forme d'aile
- » Arrivée du lieutenant-gouverneur et des autres VIPs
- » Introduction et bienvenu
- » Discours: Major-Général (ret.) Herb Pitts, MC CD
- » Bénédiction et la prière dédicace: Aumônier
- » Complainte: Cornemuse
- » Allocution de clôture / Licenciement

SECTION DE DÉVOILEMENT

» Vétéran du 1st Canadian Parachute Batallion, guerre 1939-1945: Soldat (ret.) Walt Romanow



- LGen (ret'd) Ray Crabbe, CMM MSC CD, Colonel of the Regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- Mr. Duane Baldwin, A/Area Director, Alberta and the Northwest Territories Area, Veterans Affairs Canada
- Mr. David Eggen, MLA, Edmonton/Calder
- City Of Edmonton Councillors: Bev Esslinger (Ward 2), Dave Loken (Ward 3), Ed Gibbons (Ward 4)
- Brad Tilley, President, Griesbach Community League
- MCpl (ret'd) Bill Johnston, President, Airborne Social Club, Edmonton

It was an impressive ceremony and one that will always be remembered by the attendees. It was truly a job well done!

In closing this long dissertation on the project, I'd be remiss if I didn't give thanks to my two wingers Bill Johnston and John Johnston who were part of this project from the beginning. They were part of the trials and tribulations and shared in the disappointments and successes equally with me. There were times when we weren't sure we'd succeed in this venture. It was their help, dedication and support and our collective airborne stubbornness that carried us to a successful completion. Of course, there were others within the Airborne Brotherhood that stood behind us, and gave us encouragement from day one; they know who they are and also have our humblest thanks.

The Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn now stands as a permanent feature in the Perron-Berger Park. It is dedicated to all paratroopers, past and present. We should be proud of what it means for us, and what it will mean to those who follow. The challenge is passed to the future 'men who wear the maroon beret' to ensure the legacy of this cairn remains alive.

The Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn is unveiled during the ceremony on August 10, 2014. (DP) // Le cairn commémoratif des Troupes aéroportées canadiennes a été dévoilé lors de la cérémonie du 10 août 2014. (DP)

- » Veuve du 1st Canadian Parachute Bataillon: Mme Isobel Allan
- » Plus jeune parachutiste, 3 PPCLI: Soldat D.J.R. Renaud
- » Veuve du Régiment aéroporté du Canada: Mme San Dee Lyons

DIGNITAIRES PRÉSENTS

- » Colonel (ret.) l'Honorable Donald S. Ethell, OC OMM AOE MSC CD LLD, Lieutenant Gouverneur d'Alberta
- » Son Excellence Adrienne Clarkson PC CC CMM COM CD, Colonel-en-Chef du Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- » Lieutenant-Général (ret.) Ray Crabbe CMM MSC CD, Colonel du Régiment Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- » M. Duane Baldwin, directeur adjoint, Alberta et Territoires du Nord-Ouest, ministère des Anciens Combattants du Canada
- » David Eggen: MLA, Edmonton/Calder
- » Conseillers de la ville d'Edmonton: Bev Esslinger (section électorale 2); Dave Loken (section électorale 3); Ed Gibbons (section électorale 4)
- » Brad Tilley, Président de la ligue communautaire de Griesbach
- » Caporal-chef (ret.) Bill Johnston, Président du Airborne Social Club (Edmonton)

Ce fut vraiment pour tous ceux présents une cérémonie impressionnante dont ils se souviendront. Du beau travail ! Pour terminer cette longue dissertation, il ne faut pas que j'oublie mes deux aides Bill Johnson et John Johnston qui furent actifs dès les débuts de ce projet. Ils partagèrent avec moi toutes les tribulations, épreuves, déceptions et succès au fur et à mesure que le projet avançait. Pour vous dire franchement, certaines fois nous n'étions pas certains d'y arriver. Avec leur aide, leur soutien et leur dévouement et cette obstination typiquement parachutiste nous sommes allées jusqu'au bout. Bien sûr, il y avait d'autres frères para qui étaient à nos côtés et qui nous encourageaient dès le début ... Vous savez qui vous êtes et nous vous remercions aussi.

Le cairn commémorant les Troupes aéroportées canadiennes fera toujours partie du Parc Perron-Berger. Il est



Padre Lieutenant(N) Felix Roberge blesses the cairn after the unveiling. (DP) // Aumônier Lieutenant(N) Felix Roberge bénit le cairn après le dévoilement. (DP)

What better way to end than with the dedication on the plaque to the cairn:

Unveiled on the 10th August 2014, the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn stands as a permanent reminder of Griesbach Village's important military heritage. From 1957 to 1995, Griesbach was home to several of Canada's airborne units: the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Canadian Airborne Regiment, the Canadian Airborne Centre, and the Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot.

Paratroopers are soldiers who can be inserted into the battlefield from the air. In Canada, our parachute units were created in 1942 during World War II and began what has become a proud legacy that continues to the present day. From the beginning, paratroopers have demonstrated unique qualities. And to quote Field Marshall, the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein,

"What manner of men are these who wear the maroon beret? They are, firstly, all volunteers and are toughened by hard physical training. As a result they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well being. They have "jumped" from the air and by so doing have conquered fear.

Their duty lies in the van of the battle; they are proud of this honour and have never failed in any task. They have the highest standards in all things whether it be skill in battle or smartness in the execution of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as tenacious and determined in defence as they are courageous in the attack. They are, in fact, men apart ~~ every man an Emperor.

Of all the factors, which make for success in battle the spirit of

dédié à tous les parachutistes passés, présents et à venir. Nous devrions être fiers de ce que cela signifie pour nous. Le défi est maintenant, pour ceux qui porteront le béret parachutiste, de garder vivant ce legs que représente ce cairn. Pour terminer convenablement cette dédicace de la plaque:

- « Dévoilé le 10 août 2014 le cairn commémoratif des troupes aéroportées canadiennes est un rappel pour tous de l'importance de l'héritage militaire du village de Griesbach. De 1957 à 1995, il fut la base principale des unités parachutistes canadiennes suivantes : 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, le Régiment aéroporté du Canada, Centre aéroporté du Canada, le Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot.
- « Les parachutistes sont des soldats qui peuvent être au combat par la voie des airs. Les premiers parachutistes militaires canadiens virent le jour en 1942 pendant la guerre 39–45 et aujourd'hui nous pouvons être fiers de ce qu'il nous ont légué. Dès le début, les parachutistes ont démontré des capacités singulières. Le Field Marshall Montgomery, Vicomte d'El Alamein dit d'eux :
 - « Quel genre d'hommes portent le béret parachutiste? »
- « Premièrement, ils sont tous des volontaires et ils sont endurcis par un dur entraînement physique. Il en résulte un optimisme infectieux et un désir ardent et offensif qui provient de ce bien-être physique. Ils ont sauté des airs et faisant ainsi, ils ont conquis la peur. Leur devoir est d'être à l'avant-garde du combat; ils sont fiers de cet honneur et n'ont jamais failli à la tâche. En toute chose, ils ont le standard le plus élevé, que ce soit par leur ardeur au combat ou dans l'exécution de toutes tâches en temps de paix. En défensive, ils sont tous aussi tenaces et déterminés qu'ils le sont à l'attaque. Ils sont en fait des hommes d'exception, chaque homme est un empereur. En comptabilisant toutes les données menant à la victoire au combat, l'esprit du guerrier est capital. Cette esprit se focalise tout spécialement chez ceux qui porte ce béret parachutiste ».

Inscrit au registre des Monument nationaux, le cairn commémoratif des Troupes aéroportées canadiennes est dédié aux parachutistes canadiens morts en service commandé pour leur pays, que ce soit en temps de paix ou de guerre. Nous leur disons « Bon vent et bon saut – Airborne! »

Je suis fier d'avoir participé à ce projet. ■



Airborne comrades one and all celebrate. (DP) // Les camarades aéroportées réjouissent de ce moment historique. (DP)

the warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure in the men who wear the maroon beret."

Registered as a National Monument, the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn is dedicated to all of Canada's fallen paratroopers who served their country during peace and war. To them we say, "Fair Winds and Soft Landings — AIRBORNE!"

I am proud and honoured to have been a part of this project. ■

CANADIAN AIRBORNE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION & AIRBORNE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA PRESENT: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

by Major (ret'd) Robert J. Janik, MMM CD, Selection Committee Chair

anadian Airborne Forces Association, and the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada, I am pleased to announce that the recipient of this year's award is:

Miss Darien Alexandra Hobday

Miss Hobday is the granddaughter of Arthur Tompkins; he, formerly of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and the Canadian Airborne Centre. Miss Hobday will be attending the University of Victoria, entering the Education Program, with the view to becoming an English and Physical Education Teacher.

To all applicants, I extend to you the appreciation of the board for considering our fund. On behalf of the selection committee, I extend to you the recognition that your successes and accomplishments reflect singularly well on your abilities and character. On behalf of the Airborne Brotherhood at large, I extend to you our sincere wishes for every success in the future.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LCol (ret'd) Paul Paone, Miss Darien Hobday, recipient of the 2014 CAFA/ARAC bursary, MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts, Mr. Brian Shackleton (2nd Vice President, Langford Legion). Ms. Hobday's father, Larry Hobday, was also in attendance—he was the photographer.





1 CAN PARA

71 Years Since D-Day: Three Awards Presented During Ceremony

> text & photos by Kayla Bruch, Staff Reporter, The Mountaineer

oldiers and members of the public recognized the 71st anniversary of D-Day and the 15th anniversary of the dedication of the cairn commemorating the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Airborne Monument at Siffleur Falls on June 6.

The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion was created on July 1, 1942, and in 1944 the Battalion parachuted into Normandy, France, with the British 6th Airborne Division.

At age 17 Walt (Spike) Romanow was one of many young boys who joined the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion on behalf of the country of France and parachuted into Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

"I'm very conscious that I represent my fallen comrades. As we salute and honour them we remember that our comrades lay sleeping in French graves, in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany and we ask for a blessing on them and that's a focal point of what we are doing here today," Romanow told *The Mountaineer*.

"War is ugly, war is death, war is killing, that's what war is all about and that's why we have the monument to remember and to strive for peace amongst all nations, not to continue fighting war."

Romanow, 92, spent five years overseas during the Second World War, serving in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

"I joined the Parachute Batallion and I went overseas and I qualified as a parachutist and it was all action after that," he said. "War was part of our family; my brother and I, we both served."

ABOVE: Retired MGen Herb Pitts, MC, CD, patron of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Korean War veteran and ex-commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, spoke during the D-Day ceremony on June 6 at Siffleur Falls and presented the awards. In the background is bugler Sgt Martin Walters, CD from the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and piper Master Warrant Officer (ret'd) Colin Norris, CD.





Retired MGen Herb Pitts, MC, CD, 86, said he never served with Romanow but felt that Romanow deserved special recognition, not only for the time he served overseas but also for the time he spent creating the airborne monument.

During the ceremony Pitts presented Romanow with the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour on behalf of France.

"He's one of the very few survivors who are left and he's got a tremendous personal investment of time and talent and research in that monument," said Pitts. "He did a lot of detailed work and designing and what's turned out has been a very good monument."

Pitts also presented two Canadian Airborne Presentations/Awards to two Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) soldiers, Pte J.C.A. Conrad and Pte G.J.A. Perron.

"I started the awards because I thought that's a gap which has not yet been closed and it needs fulfilling for



future roles," he said. "These were the first two graduates of a Patricia-sponsored parachute course up in Edmonton." ■

ABOVE LEFT: Members and veterans of 1st Can Para Bn, 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Canadian Airborne Regiment, Airborne veterans and Cadets of 2551 Canadian Army Cadet Corps stand in front of four significant peaks of the Canadian Rockies. These peaks were officially dedicated in honour of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, who jumped out of the clouds and into four major battles of the Second World War: Normandy, Ardennes, Rhine and Elbe. ABOVE RIGHT: Walt Romanow was presented the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour during the June 6 ceremony. BOTTOM RIGHT: Widows Isobel Allan and Pauline Zakaluk placed a wreath on behalf of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion during the ceremony. BOTTOM LEFT: John Ross, Lou Lamy and Fred Stokes stand with Major Claude Villeneuve, wearing an original WWII 1st Can Para Bn re-enactment uniform, by the Airborne monument at Siffleur Falls on June 6, 2015.







1 CAN PARA

71st Anniversary of D-Day Ceremony: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cairn, Siffleur Falls

by Capt (ret'd) Bill Dickson Coordinator/MC 2015 D-Day Ceremony

nlike June 1944, the forecast for June 5 and 6, 2015 at Siffleur Falls, Alberta, was good. What better way for a serving paratrooper to start the day than to leap into a glacier-fed lake, surrounded by mountains, from a Griffin helicopter? Four lifts later — compliments of 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron out of Edmonton — that's just what 26 paratroopers from the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) did in the early morning of June 5. Led by their Commanding Officer LCol Jason Adair and RSM Paul Francis, they jumped into the lake — definitely a refreshing way to start the day. After a quick fly past by the Griffin, it was time to clean up, pack up, dry off and prepare for the rest of the weekend.

Earlier that same morning, a mixed climb team — lead by Sgt Kiernan Underwood and made up of members from 3rd Battalion PPCLI, Army Cadets from 2551 (PPCLI) RCACC and LCol (ret'd) Ken Nette and Bdr. (ret'd) Simon Rozendaal — departed from the Airborne Monument location for an ascent up Normandy Peak, Ex Coelis Mountain. It was a beautiful morning, dry, with cool breezes complimenting the majestic backdrop of the mountainous area. The mountain range, its battled-honoured peaks and

airborne monument below, could not have been located and named more fittingly.

It was a hard, long and ultimately successful climb. A brief respite on top of Normandy Peak was enjoyed by the team. They held a small memorial service in memory of recent and past members who had crossed the Great Divide. Then it was time to begin the downward trek. Everyone made it back safe and sound. Altogether it was a 10-hour hike. There was pride in knowing this was an 'Airborne Mission' and no one had failed.

Friday night was a meet and greet at the David Thompson Resort. The camaraderie was evident in the stories told of present and past wars. Young currently serving soldiers mixed with Second World War and contemporary veterans. The food was excellent; after all, when you are hungry, it always tastes good. There was a happy — and in some cases, tired — atmosphere. A few partied back in their rooms at the resort, but as time goes on you can tell age is a

ABOVE: What a way to start the day! Paratroopers from 3 PPCLI "hit the silk" over Abrams Lake, Alberta on June 5, 2015 during the D-Day ceremony. (BILL DICKSON)







factor in the 'last call' — not to mention that the mountain air helps tire everyone out!

As anyone who has attended this ceremony over the years knows, the weather in the area is always a concern in the month of June. In 2015 we did not have to worry: it was another beautiful day. The parade formed at the Airborne Monument at 1330 hours on June 6 under parade commander Capt (ret'd) Gord Carter, MMM CD. The monument, flanked by re-enactment members Maj Claude Villeneuve (1 Can Para Kit) and Brian Mason (FSSF Kit), looked amazing. The flags were flying, while behind, the scenic Mount Ex Coelis with its battled-honoured peaks — Normandy, Ardennes, Elbe and Rhine — made an incredible backdrop for the parade.

We had nearly 100 members on parade: 36 regular force soldiers from 3 Battalion PPCLI, more than 40 Airborne veterans, five Cadets from 2551 (PPCLI) RCACC and five original Second World War veterans from 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. What class! And what a fine group of soldiers.

ABOVE LEFT: Wet, a bit cool, but a very happy load of jumpers being extracted after parachuting into Abrams Lake on the early morning of June 5, 2015. (BILL DICKSON)

ABOVE CENTRE: The climb team rests on the top of Normandy Peak, Mount Ex Coelis, after a grueling climb on June 5, 2015. (DRONE CAMERA SHOT BY SIMOM ROZENDAAL)

ABOVE RIGHT: LCol (ret'd) Ken Nette during a pit stop on the climb up Normandy Peak seems to be thinking to himself, "What am I doing here!!" (WILD SPECTRUM PHOTOGRAPHY)

BOTTOM: Climb team led by Sgt Kiernan Underwood at Siffleur Falls before the climb to Normandy Peak on Ex Coelis. (WILD SPECTRUM PHOTOGRAPHY)

Our bugler, Sgt Martin Walters from the RCA Band in Edmonton, and piper, Airborne veteran MWO (ret'd) Colin Norris, completed the parade roster. Wives, family and friends — and a number of passing tourists — added another 75 or so people to the ceremony.

Our patron, MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts, MC CD, gave the tributes and read the greetings from the ministers of Veterans Affairs and National Defence, as well as one









ABOVE LEFT: What goes up must come down ... Climb Team heads back down after a successful ascent to the top of Normandy Peak, Mount Ex Coelis, June 5, 2015. (SGT. RANDY VERHEYE) ABOVE MIDDLE: 3 PPCLI Pte J.C.A. Conrad and Pte G.J.A. Perron with MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts after receiving their Canadian Airborne Awards on parade. (MWO (RET'D) DAVE PARIS) ABOVE RIGHT: The originals: WWII 1 Can Para veterans John Ross (Lethbridge), Russ Dixon (Calgary), Walt Romanow (Edmonton), Fred Stokes (N. Vancouver) and Lou Lamy (Calgary) remember the sacrifices of their D-Day comrades 71 years later on June 6, 2015. (MWO (RET'D) DAVE PARIS)

from the lieutenant-governor of Alberta. Of significance this year: during the parade was the presentation by our Patron of the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, to 1 Can Para Bn veteran Walter Romanow, on behalf of France. Pitts also presented Canadian Airborne Awards to 3 PPCLI soldiers Pte. J.C.A. Conrad and Pte. G.I.A. Perron.

The Airborne Prayer was read by 1 Can Para Bn veteran the Hon. Russell Dixon, QC, a veteran of Operation VARSITY, the parachute assault across the Rhine in March 1945. We then paid our respects, including the *Last Post*, which was followed by two minutes of silence, the *Lament* and *Reveille*. Wreathes were placed. The bugler played *God Save the Queen*, the colours were retired and the parade was dismissed.

The usual post-parade photo session took place. Many lingered and took final shots of the monument and read the inscriptions engraved thereon. Soon it was over and everyone headed back to the David Thompson Resort for the BBO.

We missed the UK and U.S. forces members this year. When they attend it gives us a truly international ceremony. Hopefully, they will attend next year. We also missed the many of our vintage that could, or should, attend, or maybe never have been here on June 6 for this ceremony. For those of us who do, we look forward to coming back next year.

To quote the Airborne Creed: "They are, in fact, men apart..." So we owe it to the Maroon Berets that went before

us to keep the legacy of this ceremony alive. Likewise, the Maroon Berets that follow us must make sure the legacy doesn't die. *Airborne!*





In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM

Sonya d'Artois: La dernière femme espionne britannique

Michel Miclette, Président, succursale #15 Guy D'Artois



Sonya d'Artois: The Last British Female Spy

Translation by Julie Simoneau

me Sonya d'Artois (1924–2014), née Sonia Butt, était la marraine de la succursale #15 Guy d'Artois, Brossard, de l'Association des Forces aéroportées canadiennes. Elle est décédée le 21 décembre 2014 à l'Hôpital général du Lakeshore, à Pointe-Claire, QC, à l'âge de 90 ans.

Un service religieux eut lieu samedi le 10 janvier 2015, à l'église Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, à Hudson, QC. Plusieurs militaires présents ont rendu hommage à cette grande dame, notamment le colonel honoraire du Royal 22º Régiment, le major-général (ret.) Alain Forand, le major-général (ret.) Terry Liston, le brigadier-général Gaston Côté, un officier britannique représentant le Royaume-Unis, et cinq membres de la succursale #15 Guy d'Artois. Après le service religieux, une réception eut lieu au centre communautaire en face de l'église.

Sonya d'Artois était une dame avec un vécu pas comme les autres.

CI-HAUT: Le coup de foudre: Sonya Butt rencontra Guy d'Artois en 1943 lorsque tous deux étaient recrues du SOE.

rs. Sonya d'Artois (1924–2014), née Sonia Butt, was the patron of Canadian Airborne Forces Association Branch #15 Guy d'Artois in Brossard, Quebec. Sonya died on December 21, 2014 at the Lakeshore General Hospital in Pointe-Claire, Quebec, at the age of 90.

A religious service was held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at Saint-Thomas d'Aquin Church in Hudson, QC. Several members from the military attended the services to pay their respects to this incredible woman, including Honorary Colonel of the Royal 22nd Regiment MGen (ret'd) Alain Forand, MGen (ret'd) Terry Liston, BGen Gaston Côté, a British officer representing the United Kingdom, and five members of Branch #15 Guy d'Artois. After the service, a reception was held at the community centre located across from the church.

Sonya d'Artois was a lady with life experiences unlike most others.

ABOVE: Love at first sight: Sonya Butt met Guy d'Artois in 1943 while training for the SOE and were soon married.

MAIS, QUI ÉTAIT SONYA D'ARTOIS?

Sonya naquit le 14 mai 1924 à Eastchurch, Kent, en Angleterre, mais passa la majeure partie de son enfance en France où elle apprit à parler la langue.

De son vrai nom, Sonya Butt, mieux connue sous son alias, Agent Blanche, cette audacieuse adolescente britannique infiltra les Nazis en France pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. En effet, lorsque la guerre éclata en septembre 1939, elle retourna en Grande-Bretagne. En 1941, à l'âge de 17 ans, elle se joignit à la Force de l'Air auxiliaire féminin (WAAF) dans l'espoir de voir de l'action. À sa grande déception, la même année, on interdit aux femmes de servir en première ligne et on les cantonna aux formalités administratives de dépôt.

Désespérée par ce revirement, Sonya fut recrutée en 1943 à l'âge de 19 ans pour le SOE (Special Operations Executive), une organisation ultra secrète créée pour infiltrer et occuper l'Europe avec un réseau d'espions. Environ 13 000 personnes travaillèrent pour le SOE, dont 3 200 femmes. Au cours de sa formation, elle rencontra et tomba amoureuse de la recrue canadienne Guy d'Artois, parachutiste de 26 ans et membre du Royal 22° Régiment, faisant également partie des SOE.

Le couple s'est marié en Écosse avant d'être largué en France le 28 mai 1944, neuf jours avant le jour J. Sonya n'avait que 19 ans quand elle atterrit au nord de la France afin d'agir comme intermédiaire entre les troupes alliées et la Résistance française.

LA MISSION

Sonya débuta sa mission avec un départ chaotique. Un conteneur transportant sa garde-robe fut intercepté par une patrouille allemande, alertant les Nazis de la présence d'un nouvel agent féminin. Mais Sonya refusa de laisser ce malencontreux événement la décourager et commença immédiatement à entraîner et à instruire les résistants français au maniement des explosifs.

Sonya a souvent utilisé sa beauté pour séduire des soldats allemands et obtenir plus de renseignements; elle en profitait pour en recruter secrètement, former de nouvelles cellules de résistance et les former à la guérilla.

Malgré sa jeunesse, Sonya était une spécialiste en explosifs et son expertise a été très en demande dans les villes rurales et dans les villages défaits par la guerre. La jeune femme audacieuse se gagna une réputation d'intrépidité lors du sabotage de ponts et en piégeant les convois allemands.

Who was Sonya d'Artois?

Born on May 14, 1924 at Eastchurch, Kent, in England, Sonya spent the greater part of her childhood in France, where she learned to speak the language fluently.

Sonya Butt, better known under her code name of Agent Blanche, was a daring teenager who infiltrated Nazioccupied France during the Second World War. When war broke out in September 1939, Sonya returned home to the United Kingdom. In 1941, at the age of 17, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in the hopes of seeing action. To her great disappointment, that same year women were prohibited from serving on the front line and were instead relegated to perform clerical work.

Eventually, Sonya was recruited at the age of 19 to become part of the SOE, the Special Operations Executive, an ultra-secret organization developed to infiltrate and establish a network of spies across Europe. Some 13,000 people worked for the SOE, of which 3,200 were women. During her training she met and fell in love with another recruit in the SOE: 26-year-old Canadian paratrooper Guy d'Artois, of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

The couple married on May 28, 1944 in Scotland, just a few days before they were to be assigned to separate missions in France and nine days before D-Day. Sonya was just 19 years old when she was parachuted into northern France, where she would serve as a courier between the Allies and the French Resistance.

The mission

Sonya's mission was fraught with a chaotic beginning. The container which held her wardrobe was intercepted by a German patrol, alerting the Nazis to the presence of a new female agent in the area. But Sonya refused to let this unfortunate event discourage her from her mission. She soon set to work training members of the French Resistance in the use of weapons and explosives.

Sonya often had to resort to using her beauty to seduce German soldiers in order to obtain vital information, which she then used to secretly recruit members for the creation of new resistance cells; she also taught them guerilla warfare.

Despite her young age, Sonya was an expert in explosives and was highly sought, especially for missions in rural villages destroyed by the war. This young woman's reputation for daring and fearlessness was secured after successfully sabotaging bridges and diverting German convoys.

Mais un soir elle dévoila sa couverture lorsqu'au beau milieu d'une chaude conversation dans un café avec un officier allemand, son sac à main contenant un pistolet a tombé parterre. Le sac atterrit avec un bruit sourd, révélant qu'elle transportait une arme à feu. Cependant, elle réussit à convaincre l'officier un peu rond de la légitimité de son arme, en lui montrant un certificat falsifié de permis d'arme, signé par la Gestapo.

Pendant ce temps, Guy d'Artois, son mari, réalisait lui aussi ses exploits audacieux plusieurs centaines de milles plus loin où il mena une armée forte de 600 combattants de la Résistance française. L'unité de combat perturba l'armée allemande en détruisant des ponts stratégiques et des lignes de chemin de fer et en attaquant les positions ennemies.

En août 1944, après la libération de Paris, Sonya et son mari furent enfin réunis mais elle refusa l'offre d'un retour à la maison. Au lieu de cela, elle fit équipe avec les Américains et fournit des renseignements vitaux qui exposèrent grandement les positions allemandes. Elle fut même capturée par des soldats français qui avaient aperçu son cabriolet avec des soldats allemands et la menacèrent de lui raser la tête, punition qu'on infligeait aux collabos. Mais heureusement, l'incident vint aux oreilles des membres de la Résistance qui expliquèrent son rôle au sein de l'organisation. Immédiatement, on la libéra.

L'APRÈS-GUERRE AU CANADA

La guerre terminée, Sonya et Guy revinrent au Canada, s'installèrent à Hudson, QC, près de Montréal où ils élevèrent six enfants. Elle devint femme au foyer et centre aimant de la famille, tandis que Guy fit carrière dans les Forces armées canadiennes.

L'histoire remarquable de cette femme exceptionnelle émergea récemment dans un livre intitulé « Les femmes qui espionnaient pour la Grande-Bretagne ». Dans sa vie d'après-guerre au Canada, Sonya hésita toujours à parler publiquement de son intrépide et dangereux travail en temps de guerre. Elle ne voulait pas être glorifiée, nous a confirmé sa fille Nadya.

RIGHT: Code-named Agent Blanche, Sonya was parachuted into France on May 28, 1944. FAR RIGHT: Sonya d'Artois with Branch #15's Mike Miclette in 1997. // À DROITE: Sous l'alias Agent Blanche, Sonya fut parachuté en France le 28 mai 1944. À L'EXTRÈME DROITE: Sonya d'Artois avec Mike Miclette de la succursale #15 en 1997.

She had a few close calls. One night, during a heated debate with a German officer in a café, her cover was almost blown when he discovered her pistol after her handbag fell off the table, hitting the floor with a large thud. Luckily, she was able to use her charms and falsified Gestapo-signed papers to convince the officer of her right to carry a handgun.

Meanwhile, Guy d'Artois was hundreds of miles away, leading 600 French Resistance Maquis in daring exploits of his own. His combat unit successfully disrupted the German forces by destroying strategic bridges and railway lines and attacked enemy positions.

In August 1944, after the liberation of Paris, Sonya and Guy were finally reunited, but she refused the offer of returning back to a quiet life at home. Instead, she remained in France and joined forces with the Americans, providing them with vital information that would lead to the routing of German positions. She was once captured by French soldiers who had noticed her cabriolet in the midst of German soldiers and who had threatened to shave her head as punishment for collaborating with the enemy. Luckily, members of the Resistance quickly learned of her arrest and came to her rescue. After learning of her role within the organization, she was immediately released.

Life in Canada

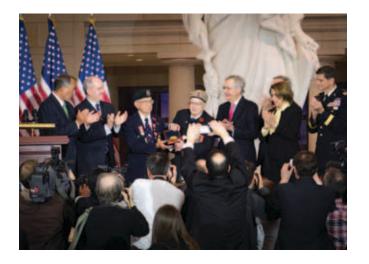
After the war, Sonya and Guy settled in Hudson, just a short distance from Montreal, where they raised six children. Sonya became a housewife, loving her new life as a mother and a grandmother, while Guy continued his illustrious career in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Sonya's incredible story came to light recently in the book *The Women Who Spied for Britain: Female Secret Agents of the Second World War.* But she had always been reluctant to talk publicly about her daring and dangerous wartime work. A private person, Sonya did not want to be glamourized, confided her daughter Nadya.









FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

Devil's Brigade honoured for U.S.-Canada Second World War partnership

by Joe Mussatto, Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

collection of medals hung from his jacket and a ring with a picture of his mother that he wore during the war clung to his finger as Herb Peppard made sure to get the date correct.

"It was Christmas Eve 1942," Peppard said. "Wait a minute, let me get this straight — 1943. Christmas Eve 1943," he repeated with assurance.

It was the date the 94-year-old Second World War veteran's best friend, George Smith, was killed in action. More than 71 years later, emotion was evident as Peppard remembered. But if not for the First Special Service Force, dubbed the Devil's Brigade, the two men would never have met.

For their valor, Speaker John Boehner and other members of the congressional leadership on February 3, 2015 awarded the First Special Service Force with the Congressional Gold Medal — the highest civilian honor Congress can grant. Congress first created it to honour soldiers, but later honoured people in other fields. Past recipients of the medal include George Washington, Rosa Parks and Mother Theresa.

More than 40 members of the brigade gathered at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to receive the award. Most of the men, 90 years and older, wore their uniforms, their many accolades drooping from their jackets.

The Devil's Brigade brought Peppard, Smith and 1,800 men together into a cohesive, American-Canadian Second World War unit. Ads at Army posts called for volunteers who had previously worked as lumberjacks, hunters, game wardens and forest rangers, according to the force's history.

It sold Peppard, a Truro, N.S., native and Smith, from Benicia, California — their hometowns more than 3,500 miles apart. "From coast to coast," Peppard said.

ABOVE: World War II's First Special Service Force was honoured with the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony held at the Capitol Visitors Center on February 3, 2015 in Washington D.C. Eugene Gutierrez, a U.S. Army World War II veteran, and Charles Mann, centre, a Canadian military World War II veteran, receive a Congressional Gold Medal honouring their unit's contributions to the liberation of Europe and the end of WWII. Around 40 or so remaining members of the force received their gold medals during the ceremony. (JOHN MARTINEZ, U.S. ARMY)



The men, whom the Germans called the "Black Devils," smeared boot polish on their faces and were trained in hand-to hand combat, parachuting, rock climbing, demolition and mountain warfare. They fought in Italy and France from 1942 to 1944 and were often ordered to sneak behind enemy lines to destroy hydroelectric plants and other key installations.

The Devil's Brigade was the precursor to modern-day special forces units. The unbreakable bond formed between the U.S. and Canadian troops made the brigade special.

Tom Hope, a member of the Devil's Brigade, mingled with fellow World War II veterans following the February 3, 2015 Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. A native of Rochester, N.Y., Hope was one of over 40 veterans in Washington, D.C. for the event honouring the precursor of today's special forces units. (JOE MUSSATTO, SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION WIRE)

"After a while you didn't know one from the other," Peppard said.

Peppard spent his life after the war as an electrician. He was a lifelong bodybuilder and was twice provincial master champion, at ages 63 and 68, his daughter Rosalee Peppard said.

He chronicled his service in the book *The Lighthearted Soldier: A Canadian's Exploits with the Black Devils in WWII.*

Only a small fraction of the Devil's Brigade is still alive. Tuesday's ceremony aimed to honour those in the audience as well as the brothers they had lost so many years ago.

"It may only be a piece of metal, but it carries the gratitude of a nation," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said of the medal.

But for members of the brigade — for Peppard and his best friend — it carries the gratitude of two nations.

"We loved each other," he said through a cracked voice, "and we would die for each other." ■

Reach reporter Joe Mussatto at joseph.mussatto@scripps.com.







AIRBORNE GUNNERS REUNION, JUNE 2015

Airborne Gunners congregate on Brandon, Manitoba from all parts of Canada to celebrate the RCA Museum's new exhibit

by Erik W. Manchester

In June 2015, an enthusiastic and more-or-less spry contingent of retired Airborne Gunners descended on Manitoba to participate in a maroon reunion prior to the general Artillery gathering at CFB Shilo.

From Quispamsis, New Brunswick, to Victoria, British Columbia, and very many places in between, 35 maroon gunners and two-dozen spouses journeyed to Brandon's Army, Navy Air & Force Veterans Club to celebrate and reminisce with former (not old) comrades.

Nearly all ranks and most generations of retired jumpers attended, the most senior paratrooper being Gord Carter, whose 1950 all-Artillery jump course began a stellar career through the ranks to retire as a Captain. Many absentees sent greetings, even one from Nepal where Ted Itani, former AB Battery CO (and recent Order of Canada recipient) works to aid that earthquake-stricken nation.

A highlight of the reunion was the opening of a significant Airborne Gunners museum display at Shilo — to which its

fraternity contributed countless artefacts, labour and over \$9,200 in cash. Triple the campaign target was raised in just a few weeks — once again proving that paratroopers never faced an objective they couldn't exceed.

At the museum ceremony, BGen (ret'd) Jim Selbie presented a well-deserved Colonel Commandant's Commendation to CWO (ret'd) Bill Tremain for his tireless work promoting the interests of fellow Airborne Gunners. In addition, three currently serving artillerymen were recognized for their recent para qualification and new Airborne roles.

A few made a side trip to the site of their jump courses at the now-derelict former CFB Rivers, remarking that it was sad to see it decrepit and lifeless (which does not describe their comrades). After 72 hours in action, the Airborne Gunners moved on, already plotting their next maroon rendezvous in 2018.

UBIQUE! AIRBORNE! ■





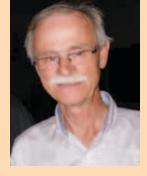




OPPOSITE PAGE: The Airborne Gunner display at the entrance of the RCA Museum, CFB Shilo, Manitoba. (ERIC W. MANCHESTER) ABOVE LEFT: Alex (AI) Mills (left), former BK (2IC) of 1 Airborne Battery (RCA), Canadian Airborne Regiment (Edmonton), received the Airborne Gunners reunion draw prize from Bill Tremain. (PAUL PARSONS) ABOVE MIDDLE: Capt (ret'd) Gord Carter (left) with WO (ret'd) Eric Manchester. Carter began his jump course in 1950, the same year Manchester was born. They later served together in 1 Airborne Battery (RCA). (MONA E. FERGUSON) ABOVE RIGHT: Airborne Gunners museum display. L5 (105mm) Howitzer, the mainstay of 1 Airborne Battery (RCA), and gunner in period uniform. (RCA MUSEUM) LEFT: An L5 (105mm) Howitzer, the mainstay of 1 Airborne Battery (RCA). (ERIC W. MANCHESTER)

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S COMMENDATION

Chief Warrant Officer (ret'd) William (Bill) Tremain, CD is hereby commended for his outstanding contribution to, and leadership of, Canada's Airborne Gunner community.



Over the past decade, he

has laboured tirelessly to motivate, organize, connect and fundraise in support of the continued well-being, comradeship and good works of his fellow Airborne Gunners. An Airborne Gunner website and regular reunions of his Airborne comrades have been products of his commitment.

His most recent distinction has been the raising of over \$9,000 for the National Artillery Museum to include an Airborne Gunner display for the 2015 RCA Reunion. This has been in addition to his role in raising funds for an Airborne Gunner monument and a written history of Canadian airborne artillery.

His dedication, enthusiasm and hard work are an inspiration to all who would preserve and celebrate the history and heritage of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and denote him as an exemplary soldier, Gunner and paratrooper.

MENTION ÉLOGIEUSE DU COLONEL COMMANDANT

L'Adjudant-chef (ret.) William (Bill) Tremain, CD, se voit décerner la mention élogieuse du Colonel Commandant pour sa contribution et son leadership exceptionnel envers la communauté des artilleurs aéroportés du Canada.

Au cours de la dernière décennie, il a travaillé sans relâche pour motiver, organiser, connecter et collecter des fonds afin de maintenir le bien-être, la camaraderie et les bonnes œuvres de ses compatriotes. Un site web sur les artilleurs aéroportés ainsi que des réunions régulières de ses camarades aéroportés ont été le fruit de son engagement.

Sa plus récente réalisation a été la collecte de plus de 9 000\$ pour le musée national de l'artillerie afin de mettre sur pied une exposition en l'honneur des artilleurs aéroportés pour la réunion de l'ARC 2015. Tout ceci a été réalisé en parallèle de son rôle dans la collecte de fonds pour la création d'un monument en l'honneur des artilleurs aéroportés et l'écriture d'un livre sur l'histoire de l'artillerie aéroportée du Canada.

Son dévouement, son enthousiasme et son travail acharné sont une inspiration pour tous ceux qui veulent préserver et célébrer l'histoire et le patrimoine du Régiment Royal de l'artillerie canadienne et font de lui un exemple en tant que soldat, artilleur et parachutiste.





Presentation to the Standing Committee

Submission to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

by Brian N. Forbes, Chairman, National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada

he following submission was made in May 2015 to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs in regards to the statutory amendments to the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-Establishment and Compensation Act (New Veterans Charter) / Support for Veterans and Their Families Act:

Mr. Chairman, we welcome this opportunity to present our position to this Standing Committee on Bill C-59 with particular reference to that portion of the legislation dealing with proposed amendments to the New Veterans Charter.

I would first wish to state that it has become readily apparent, over recent months, that there have been a number of significant developments impacting on the operation of Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department's relationship with the veterans' community.

We would be remiss if we did not commend the Minister and the Deputy Minister on their proactive engagement in the overall reform of the New Veterans Charter and the enhancement of the administrative culture within VAC.

Although much more needs to be done, there is little question, based on our experience of late, that the

Department has become far more responsive to the concerns raised by our Service Bureau at The War Amps of Canada, in dealing with specific veterans' issues and individual cases. Indeed, in our recent dealings with VAC, we have particularly noticed that the staff and employees of the Department have been revitalized and we may have passed through the "dark ages" which would have described the level of communication and working relationship which prevailed over the last number of years. As opposed to the state of denial and the abysmal nature of the dialogue which previously was in evidence in VAC, both the Minister and the Deputy have underlined their joint priority in being prepared to listen and consider the concerns and proposals of veteran stakeholder groups in upgrading veterans' legislation including the New Veterans Charter.

With specific reference to Charter reform, it is fair to say that significant momentum and substantial traction has been developed through the various recommendations brought down by the Minister, culminating in the establishment of the current statutory amendments before Parliament

which clearly are the Government's attempt to respond to the proposals made by this Standing Committee, the Veterans Ombudsman, the Veterans Consultation Group, the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group and our NCVA organizations.

Unfortunately, as I have stated on countless occasions over recent weeks, the Minister's announcements and the proposed legislative amendments reflect, in my judgement, "half measures" and are clearly not fully responsive to the comprehensive recommendations made by this Standing Committee and the aforementioned multiple advisory groups.

After years of what I have described as unacceptable inertia within VAC, there are solid indications that the first phase of positive incremental change is taking place. It remains our mandate, and I might suggest the responsibility of this Committee and Veterans' Stakeholders at large, to maintain pressure on the Government to complete this vital initiative in addressing the outstanding inequities which still remain in the New Veterans Charter.

I would now like to make a number of general comments and observations concerning the impact of that portion of Bill C-59 dealing with New Veterans Charter amendments:

The clear focus on seriously disabled veterans is commendable, as it has consistently been the position of NCVA/WAC that the highest priority to the veterans' community and the Government must be the seriously injured veteran. This prioritization is reflected in the Minister's proposals particularly with regard to the new Retirement Income Security Benefit (RISB), Critical Injury Benefit (CIB), Family Caregiver Relief Benefit (FCRB) and the enhancements to the Permanent Impairment Allowance.

It is self evident upon review of the substantive provisions of the statutory amendments that the devil will be in the details, as there are a number of references in the legislation to regulations and policy guidelines which have yet to be formulated to support the general provisions of the Act. It is my opinion that, until these regulations are finalized, it will not be possible to evaluate the precise eligibility criteria for the newly proposed major benefits and the "factors to be considered" in the administration of the new Law. It will be incumbent on Veteran Stakeholders, and indeed this Standing Committee, to monitor closely the draft regulations and policy guidelines to ensure that

the substantive provisions of the Act are not diluted or unduly restricted.

It is also readily apparent that budgetary constraints still exist, as it is my opinion, upon review of the Minister's announcements and the statutory amendments, that the proposals have been structured to "fit into" the budgetary envelope, resulting in proposed benefits which are targeted to specific cohort veterans rather than the veteran population at large. Unfortunately, in our view, the Government fixation with balancing the Budget in this election year remains a restraint on complete New Veterans Charter reform at this time.

As I stated to the Minister through recent correspondence and through my presentation to the Veterans Summit, much more needs to be done to rectify the voids that have been readily identified in the Charter. The present state of development cannot be considered a total fait accompli but merely a significant first stage of remedial legislation.

As I have indicated in the past, the true litmus test for judging the new hierarchy within VAC in this context will rest on whether the Minister will continue his commitment to treat the New Veterans Charter as a "Living Charter." It is promising that, on a number of occasions at the recent Veterans Summit and his recent appearance before this Committee, Minister O'Toole expressed his commitment that he would continue to welcome the input and proposals that all stakeholders may wish to make in furthering this objective.

For those who wish for more information on the additional areas of the Charter, which need to be addressed at this time:

See the NCVA Submission to the Standing Committee of April 2014 for the full scope and extent of the gaps and inequities that we submitted to the Standing Committee which were largely adopted in the Standing Committee Report of June 2014 "The New Veterans Charter Moving Forward."

See also the NCVA Legislative Agenda of November 2014 approved at our Annual General Meeting in Toronto for a comparison of the NCVA proposals, the Standing Committee recommendations and the reply of the former Minister.

In furtherance of our view that this package of statutory amendments is still far from complete, it is our considered opinion that the following gaps and inequities in the New Veterans Charter remain unaddressed:

1. The Earnings Loss Benefit should be elevated from 75 per cent of former military income to 100 per cent in accord with the long-standing and consistent recommendations of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, NCVA and the Veterans Consultation Group (or at least to 90 per cent as proposed by the Veterans Ombudsman's office).

The current reduction of 25 per cent in income is unacceptable particularly given that this loss of essential revenue is imposed when veterans and their families face a period of rehabilitation as they attempt to re-establish themselves in Canadian civilian society.

The insurance industry has long taken the position that this form of income diminishment is necessary in relation to disability income replacement so as to ensure that the insured is fully committed to the rehabilitation program. This form of so called "disincentive" allegedly prevents the insured from merely accepting his or her former wage and not pursuing rehabilitation with appropriate effort.

It has been the opinion of NCVA/WAC for many years that this philosophy should not be applied to disabled veterans who, to a large extent, in our experience, are fully engaged in re-establishing themselves insofar as civilian employment.

Even more importantly, this by-product of the insurance culture has no place in veterans' legislation when applied to permanently incapacitated veterans. Once it has been determined that a veteran is indeed permanently incapacitated (and not capable of obtaining gainful employment as a consequence of his or her pension disability) the Earnings Loss Benefit should recognize that such a veteran is entitled to 100 per cent income replacement. Any sense of "disincentive" is totally inapplicable in such circumstances given the veteran's inability, by definition, to return to the employment workplace.

It is noteworthy that this fundamental proposal as to the increase of the Earnings Loss Benefit has not been addressed by the Government and indeed does not appear to be on the radar of VAC.

It is also of significance that, in the situation of a permanently incapacitated veteran, once this determination is made, a "career probable earnings" approach should be implemented to ensure that the true impact of the projected career income loss is recognized. This proposal is in accord with the recommendations of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, the Standing Committee Report, NCVA and the Veterans Consultation

Group and can be implemented by further reform of the Permanent Impairment Allowance/Permanent Impairment Allowance Supplement, or alternatively, a separate evaluation based on the mechanism used by the Canadian Civil Courts to ascertain future loss of income for severely injured plaintiffs.

2. The SISIP Long Term Disability policy needs to be eliminated from veterans' legislation.

One of the priority recommendations of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, the Standing Committee and the Veterans Ombudsman's office has been to suggest that SISIP LTD should only apply to non-service related disability. The fundamental proposition that the insurance culture needs to be removed from the compensation made available to veterans and their families is an essential conclusion to this analysis. The compensation of veterans and their dependants should not be a function of the insurance industry whose mandate, in many situations, is to minimize exposure of the insurer's policy when applied to injured or disabled individuals.

One of the fundamental commitments made by the Government at the time of the enactment of the New Veterans Charter was the recognition that the SISIP LTD program should be eliminated and fully replaced by a liberalized Earnings Loss Benefit when applied to service related disability. The constraints placed on the New Veterans Charter by the restrictive provisions of the SISIP LTD program are still felt to this day and should be removed as soon as possible. This Government commitment made by the Minister and Deputy of the day was part and parcel of the understanding between the veteran stakeholder community and the VAC in consideration of the immediate passage of the Charter by Parliament in 2006.

3. Disability awards commensurate with Civil Court's general damages should be facilitated by VAC.

This would amount to an increase of approximately \$50,000 to the overall grid with appropriate impact on all those receiving disability awards in the adjudicative system.

It is to be noted that, in lieu of implementing this longstanding recommendation of the aforementioned multiple advisory groups, the Minister has opted to propose a new Critical Injury Benefit in the amount of \$70,000. This CIB is limited to the specific circumstances of a transitionally incapacitated veteran and to high end disability award recipients. In effect, the Bill provides that the CIB is payable to a member or veteran who "... establishes that they sustained one or more severe and traumatic injuries or developed an acute disease and that the injury or disease a) was a service related injury or disease; (b) was the result of a sudden and single incident that occurred after March 31, 2006; and (c) immediately caused a severe impairment and severe interference in their quality of life ..."

It is noteworthy, in this regard, that the CIB is fraught with definitional issues as to who is eligible for this benefit and what "factors are to be considered" by adjudicators in determining the scope and extent of this new provision.

Although we support the establishment of this innovative CIB in recognition of the plight that seriously disabled veterans confront insofar as the level of impairment and impact on their quality of life, the choice of VAC to compensate only this particular class of veterans as opposed to incrementally increasing all pensions in the disability award system is of concern. The recommendations of all of the multiple advisory groups together with the Standing Committee have suggested, as a basic principle, that the entire grid should be elevated to equate to the general damages awarded by the Canadian Civil Courts.

It is not without significance in this regard that one of our major recommendations to the Standing Committee was that VAC adopt the Exceptional Incapacity Allowance concept founded under the Pension Act in regard to seriously impaired high end veteran pensioners. This allowance has traditionally addressed the impact of a disability suffered by 100 per cent veteran pensioners with reference to their difficulty to cope with their overall incapacity. The introduction of EIA in our judgement to the Charter would augment the limitations of the PIA particularly in the circumstance where a seriously disabled veteran confronts the ravages of age.

4. Improved access to Permanent Impairment Allowance and entitlement to higher grade levels of the allowance needs further evaluation.

It will be recalled that the Veterans Ombudsman, in his empirical study of the Charter, identified that 50 per cent of seriously disabled veterans were not receiving PIA (and consequently PIAS) and that 90 per cent of these veterans receiving the award were only obtaining grade 3 (the lowest grade).

The Minister's proposal to widen the regulatory definition

of PIA eligibility to those veterans suffering mobility and self-help concerns (paragraph F) is commendable, but once again does not fully satisfy all aspects of the reform of this important allowance. This is particularly so for those seriously disabled veterans who fail to satisfy the criteria for PIA but also of great significance when one considers that the amount of PIA is a major element of the new Retirement Income Security Benefit (post 65).

It is recognized that further study by VAC is to take place with the collaboration of the Veterans Ombudsman's office to provide more clarity and certainty as to the fundamental access to PIA and the higher grade levels of the allowance.

I continue to strongly feel that our proposal to the Standing Committee in this regard is the best approach to improving this access to PIA, i.e., once a veteran is deemed to be permanently incapacitated, the Disability Award received by such a veteran should be the major determinant in assessing his or her grade level of PIA:

- Over 78 per cent Disability Award should equate to a grade 1 PIA
- ◆ Between 48 per cent and 78 per cent Disability Award should equate to a grade 2 PIA

This form of adjudicative presumption would provide a more simplistic methodology to an overly complex provision of the New Veterans Charter. Not only would this provide administrative efficiency, but it would also incorporate the utilization of the Disability Award as a trigger to the higher grade levels for PIA.

5. The Family Caregiver Relief Benefit (FCRB) requires further re-evaluation as it fails to comprehensibly provide adequate financial support for the families of seriously disabled veterans where significant needs of attendance must be provided by a caregiver.

The newly announced Family Caregiver Relief Benefit will provide eligible veterans with a tax free annual grant of \$7,238.00 so that their caregivers – who are often their spouse or other family member – will have flexibility or relief as required.

This benefit is commendable insofar as it goes as a targeted support so as to allow caregivers appropriate respite or relief, but represents, in my judgement, only one element of the overall concerns confronting the caregivers of seriously disabled veterans in need of attendance. Such families are also facing, in many cases, a significant diminishment in income due to the fact that the caregiver

spouse has been forced to give up his or her employment and when coupled with the veteran's 25 per cent loss of income under the ELB/SISIP LTD program often results in a financial crisis in the overall family budget.

It was my clear position at the Veterans Summit that VAC need not "reinvent the wheel" with regard to such caregiver allowances as the Attendance Allowance, founded under the Pension Act, which has been in place for many decades and is a far more generous provision producing \$15,000 - \$20,000 a year of non-taxable benefits to those veterans in significant need of attendance.

It is also highly noteworthy that DND, through its "Attendant Care Benefit" program, provides reimbursement to seriously disabled veterans for payments made to an attendant to look after the Canadian Armed Forces member on a full-time basis. This benefit is paid to the CAF member at a daily rate of \$100.00 (\$3,000.00 a month – \$36,000.00 a year). This benefit implicitly represents a recognition that the financial costs of attendants far exceed the need to address respite. More importantly, the serious question remains in the context of the veteran's transition from DND to VAC as to whether the financial assistance to such families will dramatically drop from the DND program to the VAC FCRB.

In our considered opinion, unfortunately the VAC FCRB program reflects a half measure at best, and fails to comprehensibly provide adequate financial recognition of the cost to a family where significant levels of attendance must be provided by a caregiver spouse or other family member.

6. Further review of the implications of the Retirement Income Security Benefit (RISB) is required to ensure that seriously disabled veterans have sufficient post 65 financial security.

The Minister's announcement as described in the Bill provides specific veterans with a post 65 benefit consisting of 70 per cent of the Earnings Loss Benefit (or SISIP LTD payment) together with 70 per cent of the Permanent Impairment Allowance that the veteran has been receiving from Veterans Affairs less certain deductions yet to be prescribed by regulation. This provision is somewhat difficult to evaluate without the answers to a number of rather significant questions as to the eligibility criteria and the actual components that would be required under the RISB to determine the various outcomes with regard to

individual hypothetical cases.

What is crystal clear is that the effectiveness of the RISB is contingent on appropriate enhancements to the PIA/PIAS and ELB (SISIP LTD) provisions of the Act. Without such complementary amendments to provide, for example, improved access to PIA and higher grade levels for the allowance, it is clear that a number of moderately or severely disabled veterans at age 65 will be essentially receiving 70 per cent of the Earnings Loss Benefit which was originally awarded at 75 per cent of previous military service income indexed with a cap of 2 per cent per annum. In our judgement, this would result in less than a satisfactory form of financial security in the traditional retirement years for such disabled veterans. We would have much preferred that the Earnings Loss Benefit be continued for life and that the Earnings Loss Benefit be established at 90 per cent – 100 per cent of previous military service income, particularly given the fact that the principal recipients of this post 65 "pension" will be totally incapacitated veterans.

In our considered judgement, to apply a 70 per cent formula to the post 65 period for a permanently incapacitated veteran based on a public/private sector pension model is not appropriate when it is recognized that the plight of such a seriously disabled veteran post 65 remains unchanged, and his or her financial costs of living continue to be essentially the same.

In conclusion, we would reaffirm our view that the current Bill before Parliament contains positive elements in furthering the reform of the New Veterans Charter. However, on balance, these statutory amendments represent only "half a loaf" when compared to the recommendations made by this Standing Committee and the multiple advisory groups. We would, therefore, respectfully submit that this Committee adopt the position that appropriate amendments be made to address the above-mentioned voids and inequities which remain in the Charter. Should this not be feasible given the time constraints confronting the passage of this Bill and the exigencies of the Parliamentary process, at a minimum we would urge this Committee to obtain a formal commitment from the Minister and the Government to rectify the gaps and shortcomings that are readily apparent within the proposed legislation, and a requirement established that the Minister provide a time frame for addressing these outstanding substantive concerns.

All of which is respectfully submitted. ■



PART 2: OP VARSITY PLUNDER, 1945

The following historical document, hand-written while in Wismar, Germany in March 1945 by 1 Can Para's commander, provide insight on the final days of World War II. Part 1, which covered the period of March 21 to April 7, was printed in the 2013 issue of Maroon Beret. This final segment covers the events of April 8 to 18 and includes a summary of the para assault across the Rhine River at Rees on March 24, 1945.



8 April

0600 hrs. Let boys sleep – eat on run. Cdn lead again – tpt, sqn tanks only, remainder of Bn on foot. Turned at SACHSENHAGEN towards WUNSTORF. No opposition. Tpt picked up Bn area AUHAGEN – speed up to 20 mph. Liberated large French camp near MEMERODE and took approx. 250 PW. Liberated Belgian camp area BOKELON, captured approx. 150 PW. Moved into WUNSTORF to railway station. Liberated French. Advised large Cdn and Yank Laager near WIRRENGEN south of HANOVER.

1300 hrs: AA fir ahead — recced area with Lonsdale prior to move to LUTHE — long [unintelligible] tanks in LUTE — orders to push thru to RICKLINGEN BRIDGE fast as possible to rescue party of 15S Div — knew tanks in area — on LUTE. C Coy right, A Coy down main road following 4 min concentration by 2 fd regts, 1 med regt. Torrops double thru LUTE to area RICKLINGEN — under heavy fire from MG 42s and SP 88. Took bridge by 1630

hours, town utter shambles. Troops fought well — spirits very high — American objective to be relieved by Yanks at last light — lots of shelling, a/tank fie and a/c. Relief complete by 2230 hrs — move Bn back to LUTHE to billet for night — Hillborn handled — arrived at BHQ by 2330 hours dead tired, nothing to eat all day. Knocked off a bottle or two and collapsed.

9 April

Slept until 0900 hrs — found Bn most asleep, got things active by 1030 hrs. Gen Bols arrived at 1100 hrs — congratulated on splendid showing at RICKLINGEN,

ABOVE: Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser Eadie, Commanding Officer of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, displaying the American Silver Star decoration which he had just received in Wismar, Germany, on May 20, 1945. (CHARLES H. RICHER, LAC 3231582)

advised 48 hrs rest. B ech to Bn area — Yank columns past comd post 24 hrs solid — Friel arrived with what remained of my staff car shot up at WISSINGEN — all my clothes and papers gone — salvaged one BD Jacket, some of Nick's underwear. Haircuts, bath, clean clothes, hot food, order of the day. Shot the breeze, took pictures. Down to WUNSDORF to see Geordie, Tommy, John and Robbie. Robbie's A/tk gunners heartbroken at negative shoot day before. To bed early.

10 April

Beautiful day. Brig arrived with order for tpt move. O of M, 8, Cdn, 9 Bn. No opposition expected. To move up behind [unintelligible] obj of 15S Div — tpt arrive approx. 1130 hrs, move back thru WUNSTORF to S.P. — went on ahead to see column through. Rossiter to guide. O of M — B, C, A. Bn long overdue at S.P. — on blower to Dick at A pty — advise area at time — to hell and gone south on wrong road. It caught them 8 miles off route, turned round, set speed 45 MPG to S.P. — even at that drifted in ahead of 9 Bn. North to NEUSTADT at RUBENBERGE was surprised to see best cam A/F loaded with JU87s. West thru OTTERNHAGEN, orders not to pass any 25 pdrs, fall in and move behind last gun. Rossiter booked it — passed 4 btys before I could get to him — column now double back on Arty column and jammed in behind 8 Bn. What a deal to untangle. Brig arrived in middle of it — what a sinking feeling. Held temper and quietly removed Alex to A pty. Waters took over lead behind guns to METEL — debussed - move rifle coys by foot to NEGENBORN to BRELINGEN. Saw greatest concentration of [unintelligible] last count at 1100. Bn moved into BRELINGEN complete. [unintelligible] had everything well organized. BHQ nailed carload Jerries under red X flag. Eventually shot one, made others fess up. Liberated flock of Ruskies.

Bde disposed CDN BRELINGEN — 8 BN BERKHOF — 9 BN MEITZE – Bde and tanks MELLENDORF. Robbie asked Dick and I down for dinner — wonderful spread — put on best battledress and web belt, bloused jump boots and polished brass, quite sharp. Champagne all night, really got [unintelligible].

11 April

Further elements of 15S Div thru posn to CELLE — Cody Moffatt on scene with baseball equipment, etc. Detail strong fighting patrol to come U/C 8 Bn for purpose



of clearing of woods to north. Force had good day and liberated a number PW(X) — had trouble with Taverner of Mil Gov. Went down to Brigade for a drink with Larry — quiet all round. Troops wondering what was held up at CELLE — say 1 Bn took Minden — larger town — why can't Inf Div take CELLE. Saw Brig — had a few drinks in caravan — let loose few belts at 6 HE 111 — nothing happened – to bed early.

12 April

Church parade called in Lutheran church for 1100 hrs. Candy handled it — read lesson — visited with MO after service —baseball, etc. Called to Brigade at 1430 for O group — made recce area. CELLE taken during day by Jocks — to move by foot 13 Apr. O group 2000 hrs.

13 April

Good day. Bde O of M Cdn, 8, 9 — ours A, B, C. Sent Dick ahead with recce party, A ech and food. Cross SP 0800 hrs — route to HELLENDORF MEITZE through woods north of main road MELLENDORF — CELLE. 15S Div tpt had road priority — most of the woods were on fire — terribly hot – necessary pass through large oil storage dump (Jerry) 3 miles on side new area —touch and go whether we made it before fire. Arrived 1800 hrs and laid out — food ready, eat. Held O group, checked in with Bde. Drove over to A/F and Luftwaffe barracks — beautiful place, badly

ABOVE: Private Charles Frank Mowat of 8 Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, who has strapped his equipment onto a bicycle which he is pushing along the road, Greven, Netherlands, 5 April 1945. (LT CHARLES H. RICHER, DND, LIBRARY AND ACHIVES CANADA, PA-137043)



burned out and shot to hell. To bed early — LO with orders 0230 hrs. To hold own O group 0700 hrs, move 0800.

13 April [date error?]

Tpt arrived for move up in wake of 15S Div area UELZEN. Left CELLE 9, 8, CDN, ours C, B, A. Road between CELLE and ESCHEDE badly cratered, move mostly through woods, trails. Arrived ESCHEDE 1745 hrs, ordered down for night. Progress slow with Jocks area NETTELKAMP STEDERDORF. 2 ME 109Es dropped 4500 lbs on coy, killed 2, wounded 2. Made recce to BECKEDORF – foul smelling area, rotten flesh. Followed on to BELSEN, most horrible sight. Concentration camp taken by 11 Armd Div that afternoon. Returned to area almost sick at heart — recce indescribable. Attack by flight of ME 109E. To bed 2300 hrs. Standby for crash action.

14 April

L.O. arrive 0700 with orders for Bde to move to area WIEREN BOLLENSEN NETTLEKAMP following up 15S Div. Off to ULEZEN with recce party under Bde. Bn area NETTLEKAMP. Route ESCHEDE WEYHAUSEN BREITENHEE. To pick up guides and move to Bn area. Move 0800 by tpt. O of M 9, 8, Cdn — C, A, B — same as yesterday — action did not dictate change. Beautiful day. Road cratered by 500 lb air bombs — route mostly through

dense forest to north of road. More like a drive through city park. Arrived D.P. on time — met guides through area similar to Birds Hill. Move into NETTLEKAMP from south — town a shambles. 15S Div recce nailed at sleep, skeleton guard by S.S. tanks. Town still burning on arrival. Coys drawn in fairly tight over good fields of fire to murder any intruders. [Unintelligible] had cookers going and hot meal for lunch 1400 hrs. B ech allowed further comforts. During afternoon 2 PW(X) arrive — both from Dunkirk, one from HAC, one from RAOC. Surprised at age of gunner — must have been 48-50. Ord Johny quite a comic — a Welshman — told them to take what they wanted. Gunner took a few small souvenirs — RAOC took morning outfit complete with plug hat, spats and cane. Bde O group at WIEREN at 1900 hrs. Objective for first light attack by 9 Bn RATZLINGEN, O of M 9 move independently to area NE on high ground – attack town at first light — all their own show. Cdns remain with u/c sqn 4 Guards. Move to area HANSTEDT to arrive 30 min before first light. Bde HQ and 8 Bn in rear on same route. Bn O group 2330 hrs, reveille 0215, move 0245 on foot to FUP. O of MB, C, A. Tanks to move to FUP on own hook. Rv with Bn ½ hr before first light.

Route NETTLEKAMP — WIEREN — EMERN — LEMKE — HANDSTEDT. Warm with all our kit on and moving down back routes. Scout party did excellent job manoeuvring Bn between WELLENDORF and SCHLIECKAU on the right which were strongly held and LEMKE, which was burning on our left. Owing to reasonably slow move thru this area, chances were that we would be exposed in open country between LEMKE and HANSTEDT. Speed essential to keep 9 Bn move under cover — arrive HANDSTEDT on time — took up very tight posn. O group with me on fwd edge of town — first light — no sound or sign of action — wireless silence. No hope to contact 9 Bn — ½ hr after first light could see objective and enemy moving round. Stan Waters suggested we do the job. Suggested to Brig — got OK. Moved tanks up, embossed B Coy about 1000 yds to RATZLINGEN. Broke silence to 9 Bn to hold. Drove in full speed, remainder on double. Took town in about 20 min — when 9 Bn arrived, Crookenden beyond speech. RV'd with Bde O group other side of town, assuming we would carry on to take

ABOVE: H/Captain Douglas C. Candy, Chaplain of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, officiating at a service in the Lutheran church, Brelingen, Germany, 12 April 1945. (LT CHARLES H. RICHER, DND, LIBRARY AND ACHIVES CANADA, PA-169232)

RIESTADT. Used tanks, 2 fd regts, 2 med batteries — wide open formation across 2000 yds against tanks and inf. 1/3 of town on fire — took it in short order and ordered to ground — good position — good shape — all well. Cas — 1 killed, 1 wounded RATZLINGEN, 4 wounded RIESTADT. Time 1400 hrs — B ech arrive 1500 hrs — hot meal for troops. Took 5 tanks, etc. Lots of fire in town — caught Jerry tpt flat footed. 15S Div taking ULEZEN on our left — not much success — some troops sneaking back to our area — glad to see them. Good mortar shoot all afternoon. Went over to see Robbie Lonsdale for a drink early evening. 8 Bn recced STOCKEN SUTTORF all quiet. Close down wireless, laid cable, FOO in barn, A/tk in posn, all well. To bed early.

15 April

Reveille at 0900 hrs — skeleton staff on from 0100 hrs at which time admin given to coys — clean up, etc. At 1100 hrs, word received from Bde that Clancy picked up by 11 Armd Div north of FALINGBOSTEL and to arrive in Bn area in afternoon — warned of his condition but laid on party anyway just in case — had that wonderful feeling. Down to Bde to get hell for BRELINGEN incident — explained self out of it. 15S Div still fighting for ULEZEN — this objective essential before proceeding on Div axis to Luneburg. Clancy arrived 1700 hrs — due PW leave — refused to be sent back — asked for active job to settle personal score — gave him his old spot as OC A Coy. Boozed a bit and went to bed around 2300.

16 April

Reveille 0800 hrs — gunners left with A/tk det. 15S Div around ULEZEN still fighting — looks like no move until situation cleaned up. Went back to RATZLINGEN for burial of Stan Waters' Sgt Jones — our only cas that day. Visited 8 Bn for lunch — took easy afternoon. Check weapons, amn, med supplies, etc. Early bed.

17 April

Reveille $0800 \, hrs$ — beautiful day. Warning order for short move on foot, no fighting expected. Wondered what was up — only 2 logical moves — ULEZEN if in our hands or some location close to it for a fast follow-up once it was

ABOVE: Privates J.J. Madden, B.P. Resch, Corporal G. Payette of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion repairing boots, Brelingen, Germany, 14 April 1945. (LT CHARLES H. RICHER, DND, LIBRARY AND ACHIVES CANADA, PA-169169)



taken. Actually preferred to take it much simpler, fighting a tired enemy than finding a fresh one in a defended locality. O group at Bde 1000 hrs — move independently to HANSTEDT. O group 1130 hrs, lunch 1200, move 1300 under coys — did recce myself — too lazy to walk. Bedded down Bn in good area. For first time, saw organized front. To bed early.

18 April

Reveille 0700 — expecting move. Brig arrived for personal briefing for move to new area. ULEZEN had just fallen. 15S Div was in complete comd and regrouping. Tpt was to arrive at 1500 hrs for independent move to area KOLKHAGEN, south of LUNEBERG which fell to 11 Armd at the same time as did ULEZEN. Recce party under Hilborn dispatched immediately to lay out admin posn — Bn O of M A, B, C.

Met guides at BARDENHAGEN and disposed as per Hilborn's set-up — move complete and troops bedded down by 1900 hrs. Support and HQ area BARNSTEDT in military bldg being occupied by 5 Dutch girls — one look and I moved them out to area Bde HQ. Found interesting equipment — rifle range, assault course, football field, etc. Moved all civilians out of Bn area as precaution against alleged rape cases. By now we had smartened up. Padre mad as hell. Set up main HQ with rear at BANRSTADT. Padre acquired numerous bottles of Jolly O so Hilborn, Rossiter, Tucker and I made a good night of it.



19 April

Reveille by 1000 hrs. Orders at Bde 1300 hrs. Next few days outlined — suspected stay until enemy situation ready for a crossing. Looked like 15S Div to be brought up when ready after regrouping at ULEZEN — anticipated 5 days, could be longer. Heard Hemphill was in Germany — sent signal to Div to see Hemphill as soon as possible. Arrived in the evening — took him around Bn area and settled down to best champagne we looted to date.

Lieutenant Colonel Eadie's notes end with a summary of the para drop on 24 March 1945.:

- VARSITY PLUNDER 24 Mar 45
- Move to Transit camps -20 Mar 1945
- 8 Bn, 1 Cdn Bn, area CHIPPING ONGAR
- Bde HQ and 9 Bn, mushroom farm
- Briefing of all ranks in Transit Camps
- Sand tables
- Maps
- Obliques & verticals
- Lectures
- Transit Camp Life
- Equip check
- Amn issue & preparation

ABOVE: LCol Eadie (left) talking with Major J. Simpson, Officer Commanding the regiment's 'C' Company, Kolkhagen, Germany, 24 April 1945. (LT CHARLES H. RICHER, DND, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-191135) RIGHT: Men of 6th Airborne Division greet the crew of a Russian T-34/85 tank during the link-up of British and Soviet forces near Wismar on the Baltic coast, 3 May 1945. It was at Wismar that the Battalion met up with the Red Army. It was the only Canadian Army unit to do so during hostilities, other than a Canadian Film and Photo Unit detachment. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

- Sports
- A/C loading R-1
- Pack containers & kit bags
- Draw & fit chutes
- All personal kit loaded in a/c
- D-Day
- Reveille 0200 hrs, eat 0230 hrs
- Leave for a/f 0445, arrive a/f 0615 hrs
- Fit chutes and equip 0620 hrs
- Tea 0645 hrs
- Emplane 0700 hrs
- Take off 0720 hrs
- RV with a/c from other fields
- Div form up over channel
- 3 Para Bde, 5 Para Bde, Div HQ & Div troops, 6
 A/L Bde
- Route Folkstone, Ostend, Brussels, area Goch & Cleve, north of Wesel to DZ & LZ
- 3 Para Bde 8 Bn, Bde HQ, 1 Cdn Bn, 9 Bn
- Drop on DZ
- 8 Bn & Bde HO 0950 hrs
- Cdn Bn 0952 hrs
- 9 Bn 0955 hrs

In the 37 days following the jump, the Battalion advanced 459 kilometres as part of the British 6th Airborne Division and took the city of Wismar on May 2, 1945. It was at Wismar that the Battalion met up with the Red Army (the only Canadian Army unit to do so during hostilities, other than a Canadian Film and Photo Unit detachment). The armistice was signed on May 8 and the Battalion returned to England. ■



THE LAST POST

Thanks to Jim Steed and www.cdnabbrotherhood.ca for keeping the list current.

Anstiss, George – PPCLI

Aubry, Ronald Joseph - AB Sigs, RCCS

Beattie, Clay - Cdn AB Regt, RCHA

Blaquière, Normand – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR

Bobbit, Dan - Cdn AB Regt, RCHA

Bougie, Clyde - RCR, RCAMC

Bower, Gordie Hugh - Cdn AB Regt, RCHA

Braidwood, Peter - 1 Can Para, RCASC

Buffett, James – RCR, Cdn AB Regt, RHR

Carr, Lloyd - Cdn AB Regt, RCCS

Coleman, Lyman – RCR, Chaplain

Cumberford, John Lauder – RCOC

D'Artois, Sonia - SOE, WAAF

Darrach, Blair - Cdn AB Regt, RHR

Dehnke, Wayne - Cdn AB Regt, QOR, PPCLI

Delaney, Walter - RCR

Doiron, Sgt Andrew - CSOR

Elms, Brad - RCR, Cdn AB Regt

Engel, Richard Harold - PPCLI

Everest, Douglas George - RCR

Fader, Dutch – SAR, RCAF

Firlotte, Robert – 1 Can Para, QOR

Fleming, Arthur Lloyd - Para Rescue

French, Joseph – RCAMC, Cdn AB Regt

Frost, Ken – Cdn AB Regt, RCASC

Gall, Robert - CJATC

Gomes, Claude Roy – QOR, Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Goski, Leonard - C Int C

Hall, Ernest Joseph – Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Handspiker, Peter Ernest - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Hegadoren, Carnduff Leslie - SAR, RCAF

Hubley, Robert – Cdn AB Regt, RCCS

Hunt, Victor Horace - PPCLI

Sonya d'Artois, codenamed Agent Blanche, was parachuted into German-occupied France just nine days before D-Day, on May 28, 1944. She was only 19 years old at the time. // Sonya d'Artois, sous l'alias Agent Blanche, fut parachuté en France le 28 mai 1944, soit neuf jours avant le jour J, à l'âge de 19 ans.



King, James Edward – RCHA

Lacroix, Luc - Cdn AB Regt, R22er

Lake, Gordon A. - 1 Can Para

Lang, Robert - USMC, Cdn AB Regt, SAR

Larouche, Damien Lawrence - Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Lavigne, Leo

Lawrence, Steve - PPCLI

LeBlanc, Paul - Cdn AB Regt, R22eR

Lyons, Chester - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Magee, Sam - FSSF

McAllister, William Andrew Mitchell – 1st British Airborne

Division

McDermott, Richard – PPCLI

Moore, Paul Pius - Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Myles, George Trueman – Cdn AB Regt

Paterson, Robert James - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Payette, Gilles - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Pearce, Ronald William - PPCLI

Price, Frank Osborne – 1 Can Para, RCCS

Rajotte, Joseph Albert - Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Reasbeck, John – RCE

Reid, Roland – R22eR

Ringma, Robert - CJATC, RCOC

Robert, Romeo - Cdn AB Regt

Robinson, Gerald James - Cdn AB Regt

Robinson, Neville - Parachute Regiment, QOR, PPCLI

Sheppard, Ray – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Smith, Christopher Carl - PPCLI, Cdn AB Regt

Smith, Ken – Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Stephenson, Allan – 1 Can Para

Watson, Donald – Cdn AB Regt, Cdn Guards

Willbond, William - QOR, Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Woods, Joseph Gerard – Cdn AB Regt, RCR

